STARBLAZER

FANTASY FICTION IN PICTURES No. 276

35p

21

9 770262 240018

OUTGUARD

DON'T MISS
THIS MONTH'S OTHER
ACTION-PACKED
ADVENTURE
STARBLAZER
35p
alpha
9 770262 240018
NOW ON SALE

STANDARD DATE-TIME 14-09-3412, THE FREIGHTLINER BRUNELLO WAS ACCOSTED WITH EVIDENT HOSTILE INTENT OFF THE SADALSUUD BINARY SYSTEM.

ON BOARD WAS HENRY UTTER-VLOS, NEWLY-COMMISSIONED AS A LIEUTENANT IN THE SPACE NAVY.

CAPTAIN, MY SERVICES ARE AT YOUR DISPOSAL IN THE COMING ACTION.

CAPTAIN

NOT REQUIRED, MR VLOS, JUST SUUD PIRATES ON THE MAKE. IT'S CHEAPER PAYING THEM OFF THAN FIGHTING.

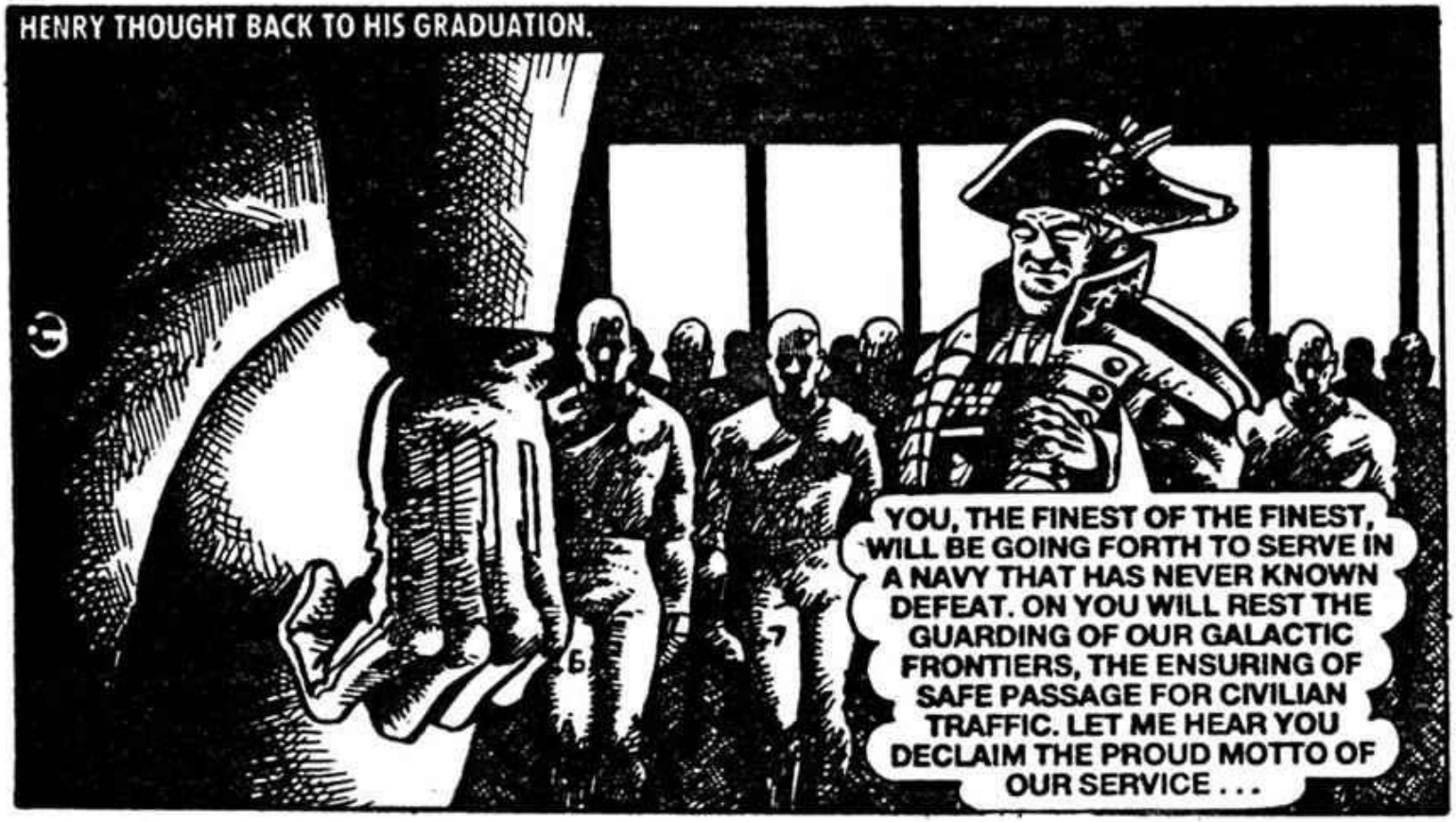
HI, DRURGEL! I SUPPOSE IT'S THE USUAL?

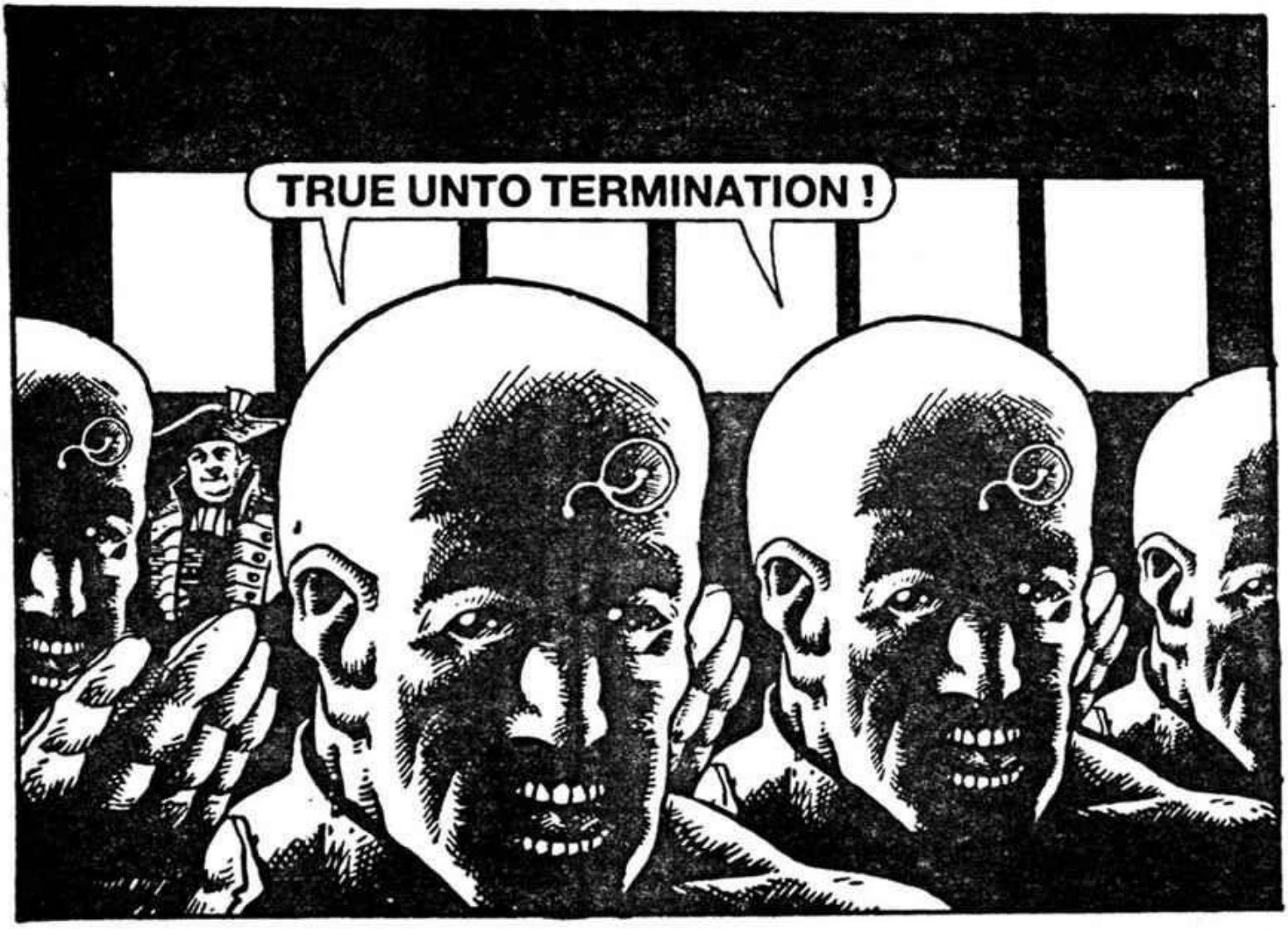
IF YOU WOULD BE SO OBLIGING, MY GOOD JUHAN. I TRUST YOUR FAMILY-GROUP KEEPS WELL.

IT'S ON ITS WAY! YES, THE FAMILY'S DOING FINE, DRURGEL.

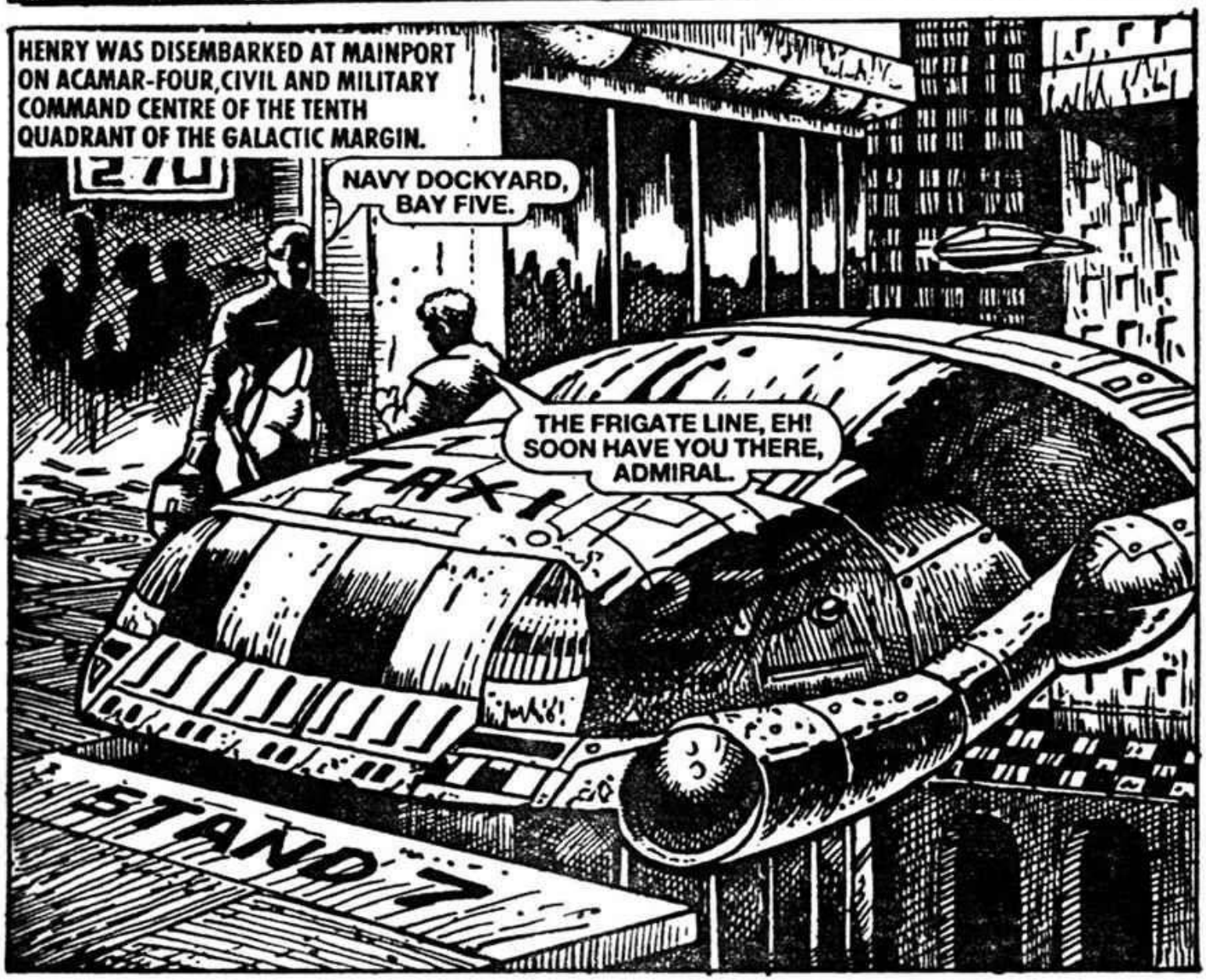
DO PLEASE EXTEND MY REGARDS TO THEM.

TRANSMISSION WAS BROKEN OFF — THE PIRATES DEPARTED.
SIR, TO GIVE IN TO SUCH BLACKMAIL IS POSITIVELY SHAMEFUL.
BUT SAFER! IT'S EITHER GIVE, OR OLD DRURGEL WOULD VAPOURIZE THIS TUB!
THE LIEUTENANT WENT IN THOUGHTFUL MOOD TO HIS CABIN. HIS NAME WAS HENRY UTTER-VLOS, THE HENRY A PERSONAL DESIGNATION, THE REST BEING BATCH NOMENCLATURE FOR THE FIFTY CLONE BROTHERS OF HIS ACADEMY CLASS.
THOSE NAVAL ACADEMY TYPES ARE ALL THE SAME, SKIPPER — THE FINEST IN GENETIC ENGINEERING, CRAFTED FOR THE SERVICE, BUT GET THEM INTO SPACE AND THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT THE REAL WORLD IS!
HE'LL LEARN! PRETTY DAMN QUICK OR HE'LL BE THE BIGGEST WASTE OF GOVERNMENT MONEY EVER.
TO ABASE ONESELF AND ONE'S COMMAND BEFORE THE LAWLESS! SO SHAMEFUL — SO HUMILIATING.


HENRY THOUGHT BACK TO HIS GRADUATION.
YOU, THE FINEST OF THE FINEST, WILL BE GOING FORTH TO SERVE IN A NAVY THAT HAS NEVER KNOWN DEFEAT. ON YOU WILL REST THE GUARDING OF OUR GALACTIC FRONTIERS, THE ENSURING OF SAFE PASSAGE FOR CIVILIAN TRAFFIC. LET ME HEAR YOU DECLAIM THE PROUD MOTTO OF OUR SERVICE . . .


TRUE UNTO TERMINATION !

FAITHFUL UNTO TERMINATION! WHAT A RELIEF IT WILL BE TO QUIT THIS CARGO SHIP OF COWARDS AND JOIN THE NAVY VESSEL IN WHICH I AM TO SERVE.

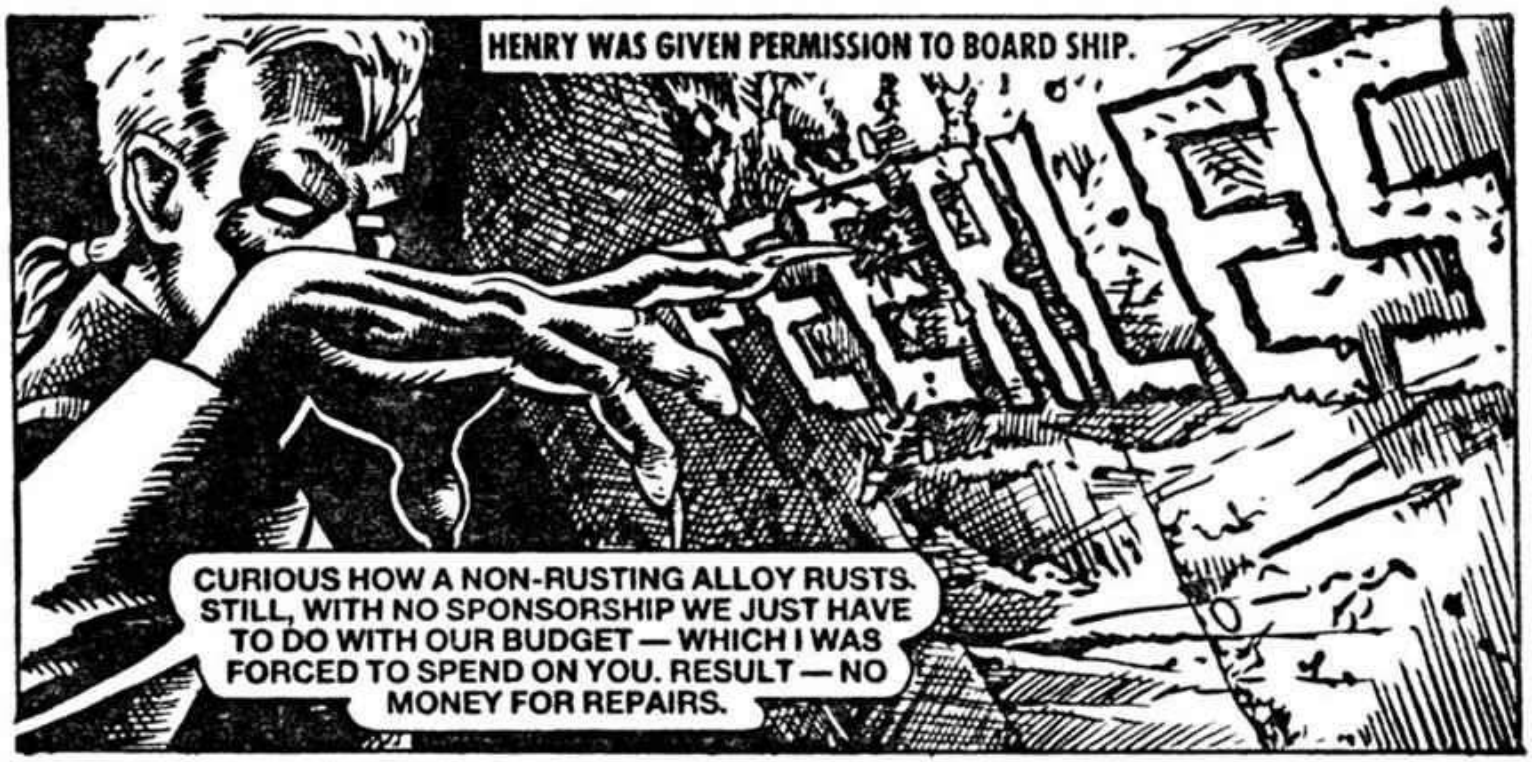

HENRY WAS DISEMBARKED AT MAINPORT ON ACAMAR-FOUR, CIVIL AND MILITARY COMMAND CENTRE OF THE TENTH QUADRANT OF THE GALACTIC MARGIN.
NAVY DOCKYARD, BAY FIVE.
THE FRIGATE LINE, EH! SOON HAVE YOU THERE, ADMIRAL.
TAXI
STAND 7

I HAVEN'T OFTEN BEEN DRIVEN BY A BIOLOGICAL DRIVER. THE CABS ARE MOSTLY ROBO-CONTROLLED IN SOL-COMPLEX.
THEY CAN AFFORD IT BACK THERE. OUT HERE US SAPIENT-BIOLOGS COME A LOT CHEAPER.

COMING UP TO BAY FIVE, ADMIRAL.
I'D SOONER HAVE BEEN POSTED TO A BATTLEWAGON, BUT FRIGATES DON'T COME ANY BETTER THAN THE OLD Z-84 CLASS.
THERE IT IS!
ZONE
THAT WRECK! OH, NO — IT CAN'T BE!

HOW CAN A NAVY SHIP GET INTO SUCH A STATE?
HEY, YOU — FELLOW!
I'M A FELLOW SURE ENOUGH, BUSTER. I AM ALSO CAPTAIN OF THIS SHIP.
SIR — *ER*, I BEG YOUR PARDON. LIEUTENANT HENRY UTTER-VLOS, SIR — REPORTING FOR DUTY.

SO THIS IS WHAT I'M GETTING FOR MY MEASLY BUDGET. YOU'D BETTER BE WORTH IT. DO YOU KNOW MY NAME?
YESSIR. YOU ARE CAPTAIN ORLANDO BRAG.


HENRY WAS GIVEN PERMISSION TO BOARD SHIP.
CURIOUS HOW A NON-RUSTING ALLOY RUSTS. STILL, WITH NO SPONSORSHIP WE JUST HAVE TO DO WITH OUR BUDGET — WHICH I WAS FORCED TO SPEND ON YOU. RESULT — NO MONEY FOR REPAIRS.

HEY! I WANT OUTA HERE. YOU CAN'T HOLD ME FOR DAMAGE I DID WHEN . . .ER . . . INDISPOSED.
HUH! INDISPOSED AS A NEWT! AS YOU DAMAGED MY CREW YOU CAN LOOK FORWARD TO A MAN'S LIFE IN THE FEDERATION NAVY.

LEMME OUT! I'LL KILL YOU.
I WOULD NOT CALL THAT A REASONED ARGUMENT FOR RELEASE. APPEAL DISMISSED . . . YOU ARE NOW PART OF MY CREW.

SIR, BEG PARDON, BUT WHERE ARE THE REST OF THE CREW?
YOU, LIEUTENANT HENRY UTTER-VLOS, ARE MOST OF IT! SINCE THE NAVY WAS PRIVATISED MOST CRAFT GOT SPONSORS. WE DIDN'T! THE GOVERNMENT ALLOCATED US A SUM OF MONEY FOR THE YEAR . . . YOU, DEAR FELLOW ACCOUNTED FOR MOST OF IT! I DIDN'T WANT YOU, BUT UNDER KING'S REGULATIONS EACH OF HIS GALACTIC MAJESTY'S VESSELS HAS TO HAVE AN OFFICER OF YOUR KIND.
SIR, EXCUSE ME, BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
PEERLESS IS AN OLD VESSEL . . . OUR BUDGET FOR THE YEAR WAS ONE MILLION, WHICH MIGHT HAVE DONE . . . THEN I HAD TO TAKE YOU AT A COST OF 990,000 . . . WHICH LEAVES ME 10 GRAND FOR THE YEAR.
I SEE . . . BUT WHAT IS THE SOLUTION?
WE GO ASHORE AND HAVE A FEW DRINKS.
BUT I DON'T DRINK!
FAIR ENOUGH . . . I'LL HAVE YOURS!

SIR, I REALLY WOULD PREFER TO REST MY FIRST NIGHT ABOARD.
WOULDN'T HEAR OF IT, HENRY.
SIR, WOULD NOT CALLING UP A CAB HAVE BEEN EASIER THAN UNSHIPPING THIS TRANSPORTER?
IT WOULD, HENRY. NOW SHUT UP AND WATCH OUT FOR THE SHORE PATROL.

THEY CAME ON THE SHORE PATROL.
THE CAPTAIN SEEMED TO EXPECT THE SHORE PATROL TO BE HERE — AND THEY APPEARED TO BE EXPECTING US.
SIR, I SAW YOU PASS CURRENCY TO THAT PATROL COMMANDER.
IT'S HIS BIRTHDAY. NOW WATCH FOR THE TURN-OFF THAT'LL TAKE US BEHIND THE AEOLIS PALACE OF FORTUNE.
SIR, IS IT SEEMLY WE OFFICERS ENTER SUCH A DISORDERLY ESTABLISHMENT?
BEER
IT'S THE ONLY KIND OF PLACE WE'RE LIKELY TO MUSTER A CREW, HENRY. NOW WATCH THIS.

CAPTAIN BRAG BELLOWED FOR SILENCE — AND FINALLY GOT IT.
GENTLEMEN, I CALL YOUR ATTENTON TO THE NAVY FRIGATE PEERLESS TAKING ON HANDS FOR A CRUISE EXPECTED TO RAISE RICH PRIZE MONEY. I ADVISE YOU THAT ONLY THE BEST OF HANDS WILL BE TAKEN ON.
PEERLESS, EH! THAT HULK!
MISTER, HERE'S WHAT I THINK OF YOU AND THAT USELESS NAVY THAT SWALLOWS ALL OUR HONEST TAXES.
I KNEW THAT COMING IN HERE WAS A MISTAKE.

A GIANT FIST LASHED OUT — AND BRAG DUCKED.
I SAY — DO YOU MIND!

ROUGH-HOUSE, EH!

THE ACTION BECAME GENERAL.
IN HERE, HENRY. WON'T DO FOR US OFFICERS TO GET INVOLVED IN A VULGAR BRAWL.
OH, ABSOLUTELY, SIR.

SIR — LOOK!
CRASH!
HENRY, RELAX AND MEET BOATSWAIN TRUK, THE OTHER HALF OF OUR CREW. HE ARRANGED THIS LITTLE . . . AH . . . FRACAS!
CRACK
WHOLAP
THUMP!
SMASH!

THE ROUGH-HOUSE WAS INTERRUPTED.
NAVY PATROL!
S.P.

YOU NAVY YOBS CAN'T DO THIS TO CIVILIANS.
WOULD YOU LIKE A BET ON THAT?
EMPTY YOUR POCKETS!
TWO GUNS, ASSORTED KNIVES . . . AND A COUPLE OF INTERESTING IDENTITY DOCUMENTS.
LET ME SEE!
BRAG TOOK THE OWNERS OF THE GUNS, SOME KNIFE POSSESSORS AND A COUPLE OF GENTS WITH INTERESTING I.D.
THESE WILL DO! GET 'EM LOADED, BO'SUN.
AYE, AYE, SIR.

GET ABOARD, MY BEAUTIES. KINDLY DO NOT ARGUE WITH ME AND THESE FRIENDLY PATROL GUYS WITH THE CLUBS AND STUNGUNS.
THE REST OF THE CLIENTELE WERE RELEASED.
A LITTLE SOMETHING EXTRA FOR YOUR BIRTHDAY, CHIEF.
THANK YOU, SIR. IT'S NICE HOW YOU ALWAYS REMEMBER.

THE TRANSPORTER HEADED BACK TO THE NAVY YARD.
SIR, I SUPPOSE BRIBES ARE WRITTEN OFF AS INCIDENTAL EXPENSES.
BRIBES? NO, NO! EXPENSES OF INTERVIEWING PROSPECTIVE CREW MEMBERS IS WHAT IT IS CALLED. DON'T FORGET THE V.A.T. RECEIPT.

BACK ON BOARD PEERLESS —
HI, GROGZIL! COMPANY FOR YOU.
GURRURRRRAGH!

PUBLIC DISORDER, DAMAGE TO PRIVATE PROPERTY, ASSAULT ON NAVAL PERSONNEL — YOU PERSONS ARE FACING A YEAR OF CORRECTIVE LABOUR. OF COURSE, THERE IS A WAY OUT.
A TWO-YEAR STINT IN THE NAVY, EH! FORGET IT. I'LL TAKE THE ROCK FARM.

NOT TWO YEARS, LADS — JUST PROBATION OF ONE WEEK AND THEN WALK OFF THE SHIP SHOULD YOU DECIDE NOT TO SIGN ON. THINK IT OVER.

SIR, DO YOU REALLY EXPECT THOSE PERSONS TO BE PERSUADED IN ONE WEEK INTO BECOMING UNDERPAID HARD-DUTY NAVY SPACERS?
HENRY, EITHER I GET QUICK RESULTS OR IT'S ME BACK TO SKIPPERING A DEEP-SPACE PROVISION TENDER.
NEXT MORNING BEGAN WITH A SURPRISE FOR HENRY.

WE HAVE TAKEN OFF.
YOU ACADEMY BOYS DON'T MISS A THING.

WE'RE GOING TO THE SADALSUUD BINARY?
YES! HENRY, KINDLY TAKE OVER FROM TRUK WHILE HE DISHES OUT FODDER TO OUR INCARCERATED CREW.

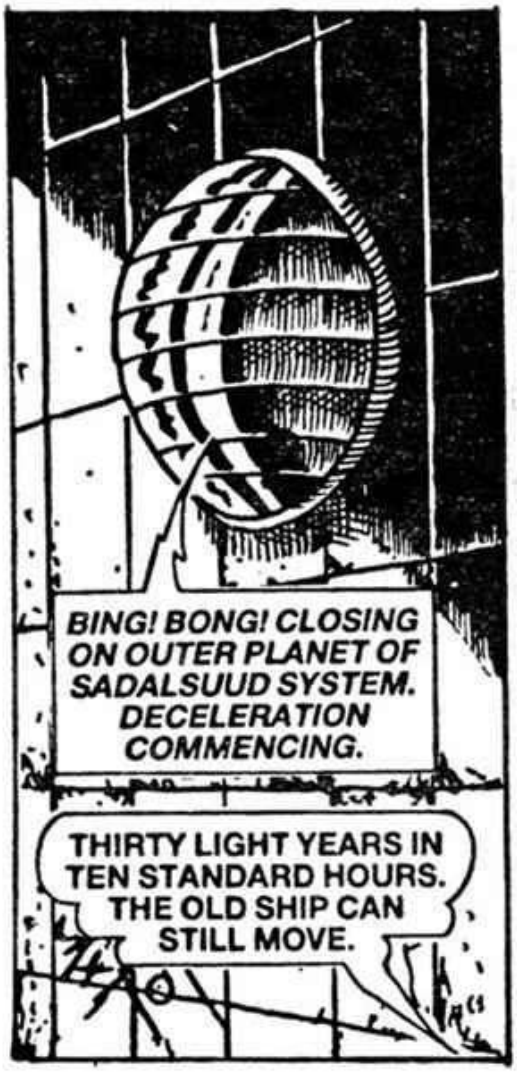
SIR, IT WAS OFF THE SADALSUUD SYSTEM THAT A CRIMINAL ELEMENT ROBBED THE FREIGHTLINER ON WHICH I TRAVELLED.
HENRY, I'M GLAD YOU TOLD ME THAT. NOW I SHALL BE ALERT FOR SUCH LOW ELEMENTS.

WARP ONE! INCREASING TO WARP TWO.
WARP FIVE. SIR, I WOULD POINT OUT THIS VESSEL IS ONLY DESIGNED TO WITHSTAND WARP FOUR STRESS.
COULD BE USEFUL TO KNOW OUR LEEWAY, HENRY. TAKE US UP TO WARP SIX.

SIR, PANEL 7 GONE!
EASE HER DOWN TO FOUR, HENRY. SET THE AUTOPILOT AND WE'LL INSPECT SHIP.
MAIN ARMAMENT CHECKS OUT, SIR — WHAT THERE IS OF IT. ONE MESON PROJECTOR TOO LOW POWERED TO HEAT A GALLEY PRESSURE COOKER BEYOND TWO THOUSAND METRES.
WE MUST HOPE OUR FOES DON'T THROW MANY PRESSURE COOKERS AT US.

I TRUST YOU ARE ENJOYING THE TRIP, GENTLEMEN. A VISUAL DISPLAY UNIT IS AVAILABLE TO ENABLE YOU TO ADMIRE THE SCENERY.
MISTER, YOU WAIT TILL WE CAN GET AT YOU! JUST YOU WAIT.

ALL PERSONNEL SETTLED TO WAITING WHILE THE SHIP WARPED THROUGH THE CONTINUUM OF SPACE AND TIME.
POKER, HENRY — AN ARCHAIC GAME STILL POPULAR AMONG LOWER RANKS. INTELLECTUALLY STIMULATING AND IT KEEPS THE FINGERS SUPPLE.
EXCUSE ME, SIR, BUT I WILL STICK TO THREE-DIMENSIONAL CHESS.


BING! BONG! CLOSING ON OUTER PLANET OF SADALSUUD SYSTEM. DECELERATION COMMENCING.
THIRTY LIGHT YEARS IN TEN STANDARD HOURS. THE OLD SHIP CAN STILL MOVE.

SIR, THERE IS SOMEBODY OUTSIDE ON THE HULL.
JUST TRUK CARRYING OUT A LITTLE JOB I GAVE HIM.

WE'RE NEAR A GAS GIANT, SIR. OBVIOUSLY NOT OCCUPIED.
SWITCH TO ION DRIVE AND TAKE US IN SUBLIGHT, HENRY.

TRUK RETURNED —
SET AND READY TO BLOW, SIR. I'VE SEALED THE HATCH ON THE TOOL COMPARTMENT BEHIND IT.
SO LET IT BLOW. HERE GOES . . .

PEERLESS SHUDDERED TO AN EXPLOSION.

SIT DOWN, HENRY — AND TURN OFF THE ALARM. THERE IS NO DAMAGE.

ALERT

BEEP

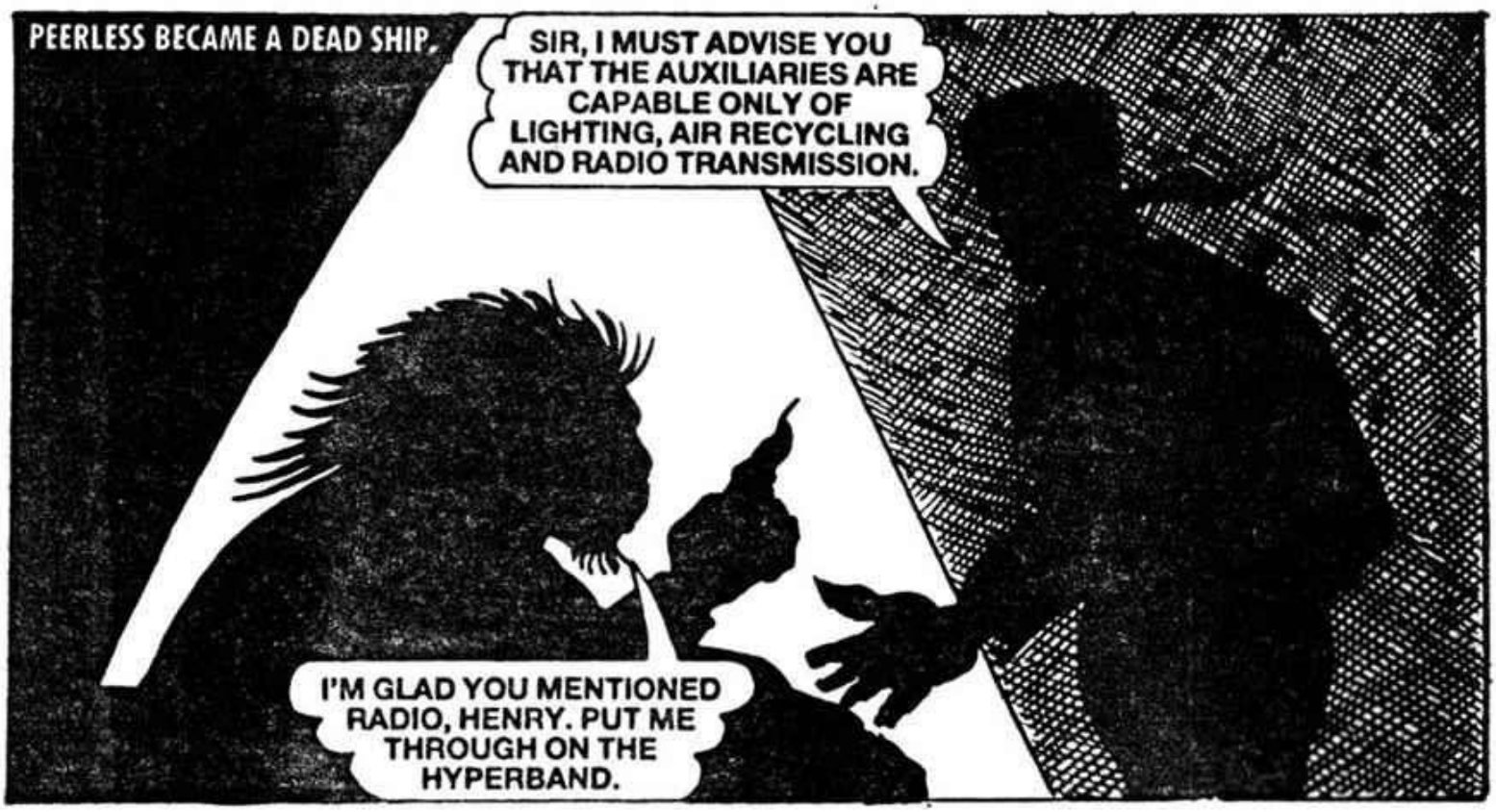
BEEP

HUH — ER, IF YOU SAY SO, SIR.

BEEP

BEEP

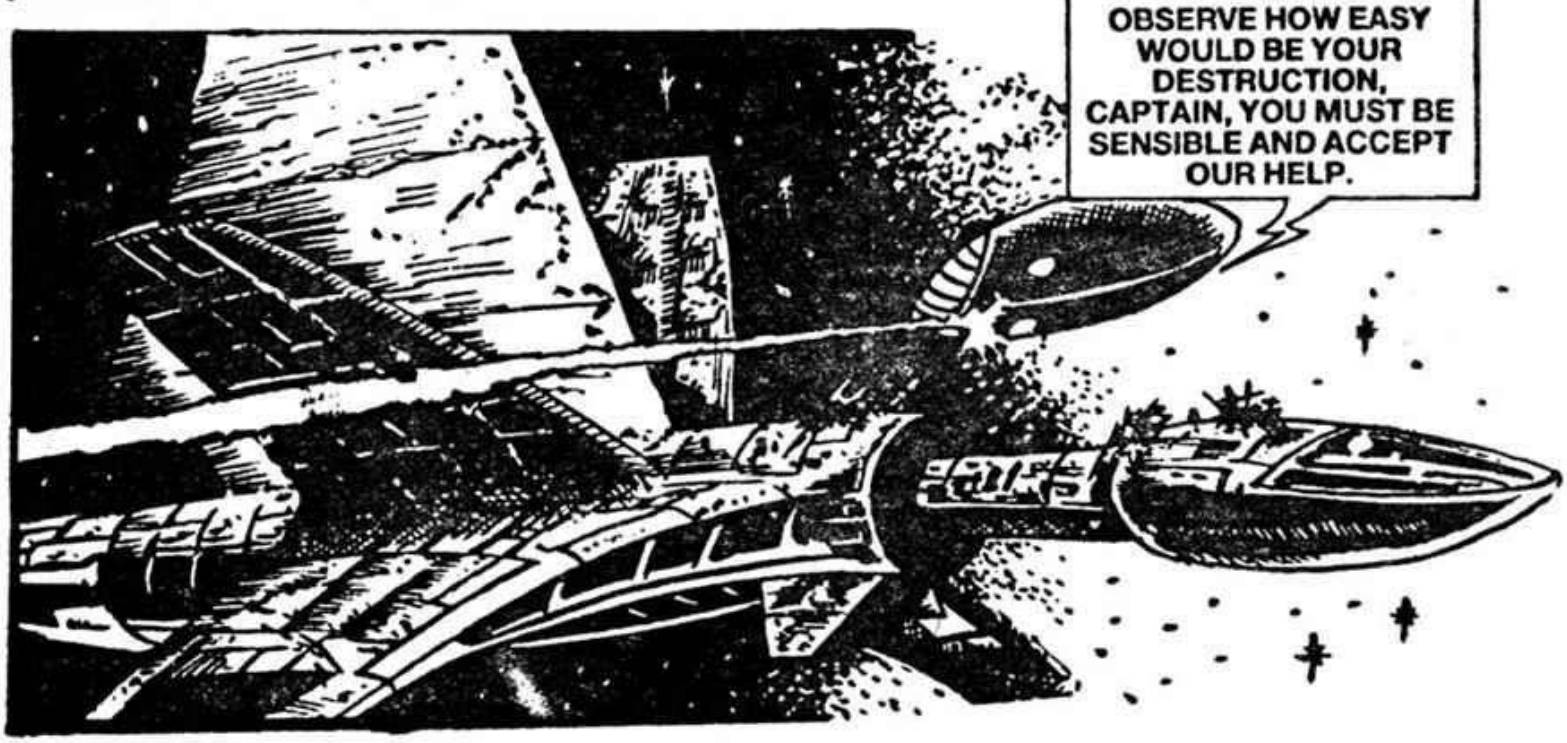
SIR — ORBIT ESTABLISHED.
CUT THE DRIVE, HENRY — AND SWITCH OFF MAIN POWER UNIT.

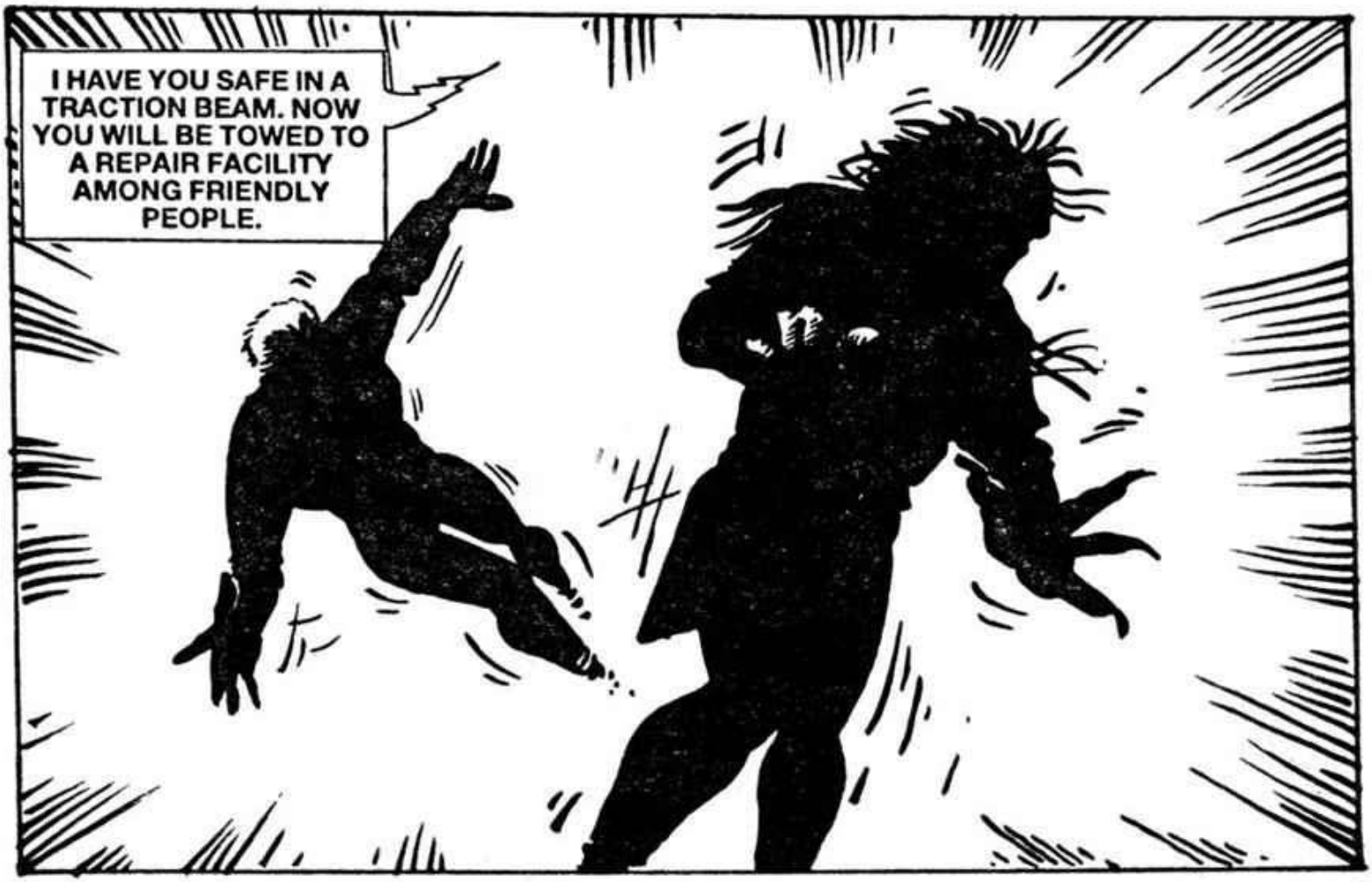

PEERLESS BECAME A DEAD SHIP.
SIR, I MUST ADVISE YOU THAT THE AUXILIARIES ARE CAPABLE ONLY OF LIGHTING, AIR RECYCLING AND RADIO TRANSMISSION.
I'M GLAD YOU MENTIONED RADIO, HENRY. PUT ME THROUGH ON THE HYPERBAND.

FLEET SHIP PEERLESS TO QUADRANT COMMAND. FUSION UNIT DAMAGED BY METEOR STRIKE. ALL POWER HAS FAILED. AM ATTEMPTING TO EFFECT REPAIR. OVER AND OUT.
SIR, THAT IS A FALSE REPORT.
THAT'S SO, A FALSE REPORT THAT EVEN BY HYPERBEAM WILL TAKE A WEEK TO REACH COMMAND CENTRE — AND A LOT CAN HAPPEN IN A WEEK, HENRY.

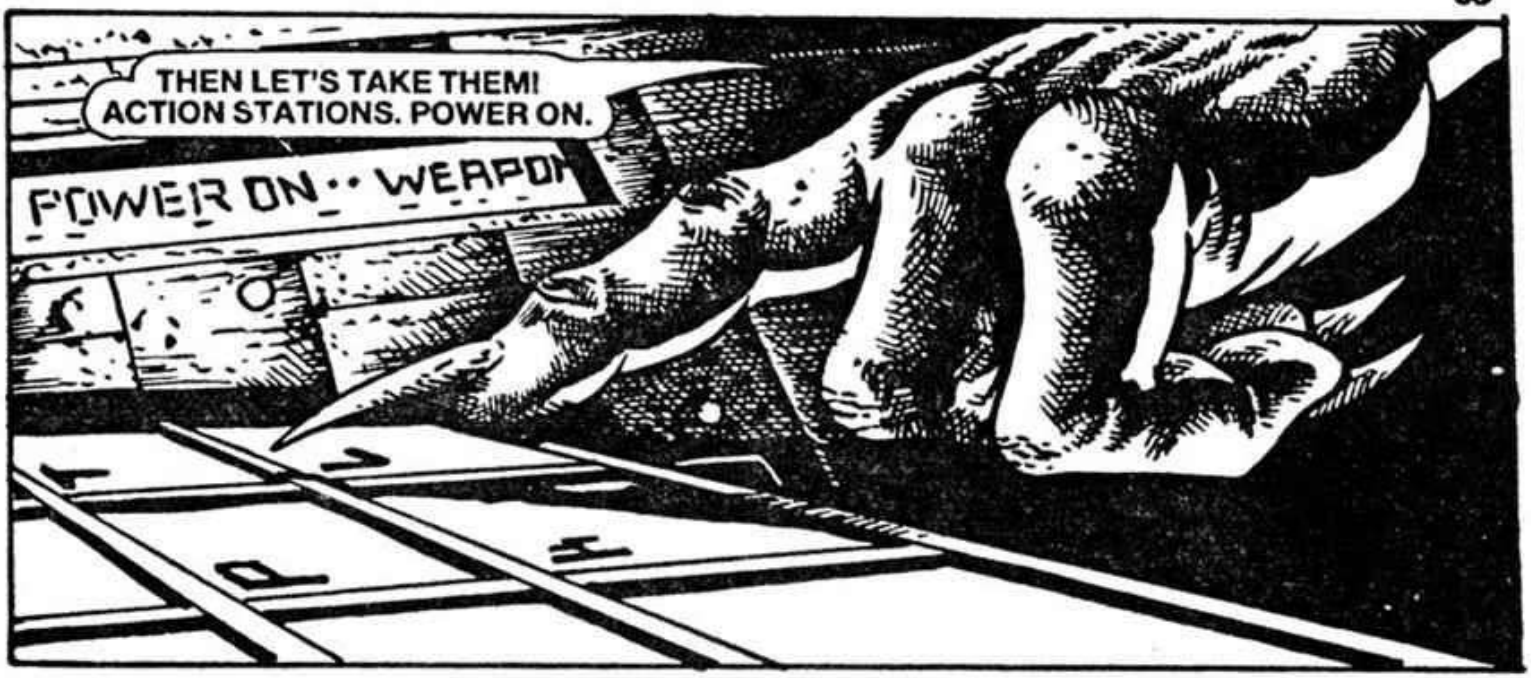
HENRY TOOK OVER WATCH AND THE PEERLESS COMPLEMENT SETTLED TO MORE WAITING.
SIR, BEG TO REPORT SHIP ON SUBLIGHT APPROACH FROM BINARY SYSTEM.
JUST ONE SHIP! AH WELL, I SUPPOSE ONE IS ENOUGH TO HANDLE A DISABLED HULK LIKE US.
NOW I UNDERSTAND — YOUR PLAN IS A RUSE TO BRING A PIRATE VESSEL TO ACTION.
DEFINITELY NOT, HENRY. SHIPS GET DAMAGED OR DESTROYED IN ACTION. NO PROFIT IN THAT.
GREETING, FED NAVY SHIP. YOUR DISTRESS OVERHEARD AND WE COME TO YOUR AID.

HOLD
CAPTAIN, YOU ARE HELPLESS, YOUR FUSION POWER FAILED — WHICH MEANS YOUR WEAPONRY CANNOT BE FIRED. WHAT IF I, MYSELF, WERE NOT FRIENDLY, BUT HOSTILE?
THANK YOU, BUT I CAN MANAGE WITHOUT HELP.


OBSERVE HOW EASY WOULD BE YOUR DESTRUCTION, CAPTAIN, YOU MUST BE SENSIBLE AND ACCEPT OUR HELP.


I HAVE YOU SAFE IN A TRACTION BEAM. NOW YOU WILL BE TOWED TO A REPAIR FACILITY AMONG FRIENDLY PEOPLE.

FRIENDLY PEOPLE WHO WILL GUT THIS TUB DOWN TO A HEAP OF SCRAP AND MOST LIKELY SELL US OFF IN THE BIOLOGICAL SPARE PART MARKET. TRUK, ARE YOU READY?
AYE, SIR— I'M READY.

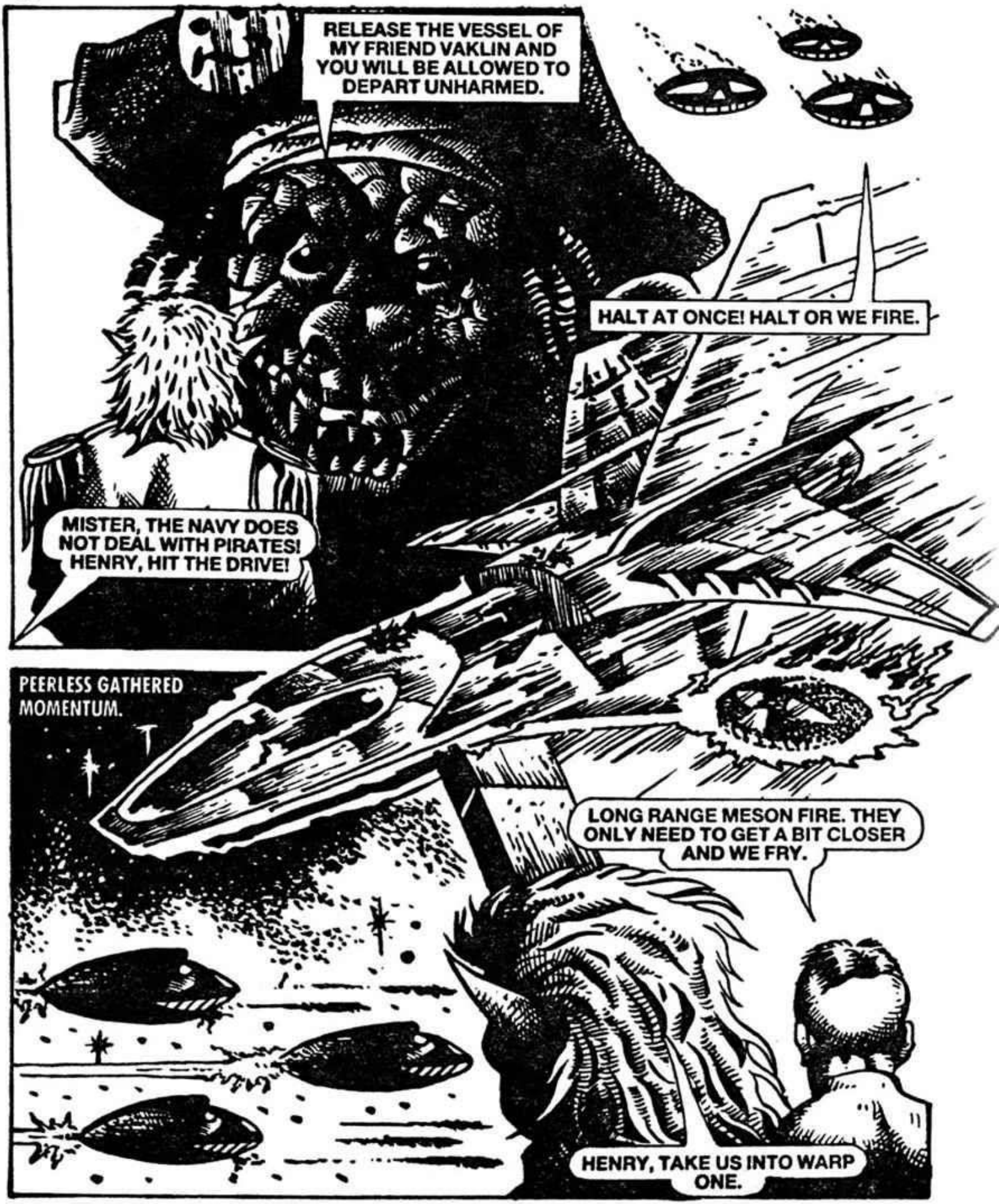

THEN LET'S TAKE THEM! ACTION STATIONS. POWER ON.
POWER ON·· WEAPON

PEERLESS CAME ALIVE.
OPEN FIRE!

TARGET
GOT HIM!
BUT NOT TOO MUCH DAMAGE, TRUK — JUST A CRIPPLING SHOT.

TRICKERY! YOU TRICKED ME.
THAT'S GOOD COMING FROM YOU!
I HAVE YOU IN A TRACTION BEAM.
CURSE YOU! THIS IS PIRACY.

SET COURSE FOR QUADRANT, HENRY.
BUT, SIR, TOWING IS INTENDED FOR SHORT SUBLIGHT HOPS, SIR. HAULING THAT VESSEL INTO WARP COULD TEAR THIS SHIP APART.
BETTER DECIDE QUICKLY, SIR. COMPANY IS COMING — THREE SHIPS CLOSING FAST.
THAT'S DRURGEL, THE VILLAIN WHO HELD UP MY FREIGHTLINER.
CALLING FED SHIP! RESPOND TO ME.


RELEASE THE VESSEL OF MY FRIEND VAKLIN AND YOU WILL BE ALLOWED TO DEPART UNHARMED.
HALT AT ONCE! HALT OR WE FIRE.
MISTER, THE NAVY DOES NOT DEAL WITH PIRATES! HENRY, HIT THE DRIVE!
PEERLESS GATHERED MOMENTUM.
LONG RANGE MESON FIRE. THEY ONLY NEED TO GET A BIT CLOSER AND WE FRY.
HENRY, TAKE US INTO WARP ONE.

WE HAVE WARP ONE.
WE AREN'T BREAKING UP, WE STILL HAVE OUR TOW — AND THOSE PIRATE TUBS ARE NOW LIGHT YEARS BEHIND US. HENRY TAKE US HOME.
VERY GOOD, SIR.
FOUR DAYS LATER, PEERLESS PUT DOWN WITH PRIZE AT THE MAINPORT NAVY YARD.
THE FED WON'T HOLD ME AND MY CREW FOR LONG, CAPTAIN BRAG. OUR ADMIRAL DRURGEL WILL SOON ARRANGE A HOSTAGE-TAKING AND AN EXCHANGE FOR US.
THAT IS OF NO CONSEQUENCE TO ME — I HAVE YOUR VESSEL AS A PRIZE.

THEY DID! THE PEERLESS CREW INCREASED BY SEVEN HANDS.

SUCH A SHAME THAT ONLY THE APPEAL OF MONEY WILL BRING MEN INTO THE SERVICE, SIR.
WE CAN'T ALL BE ACADEMY CLONES LIKE YOU, HENRY. ANYWAY, THOSE LADS WON'T GET RICH IN A HURRY THE TIME THE PRIZE COURT TAKES TO HAND OUT THE LOOT.

THAT HOLE IN THE HULL SHOULD BE PATCHED, SIR — AND I'VE A LIST OF SPARE PARTS WE NEED.

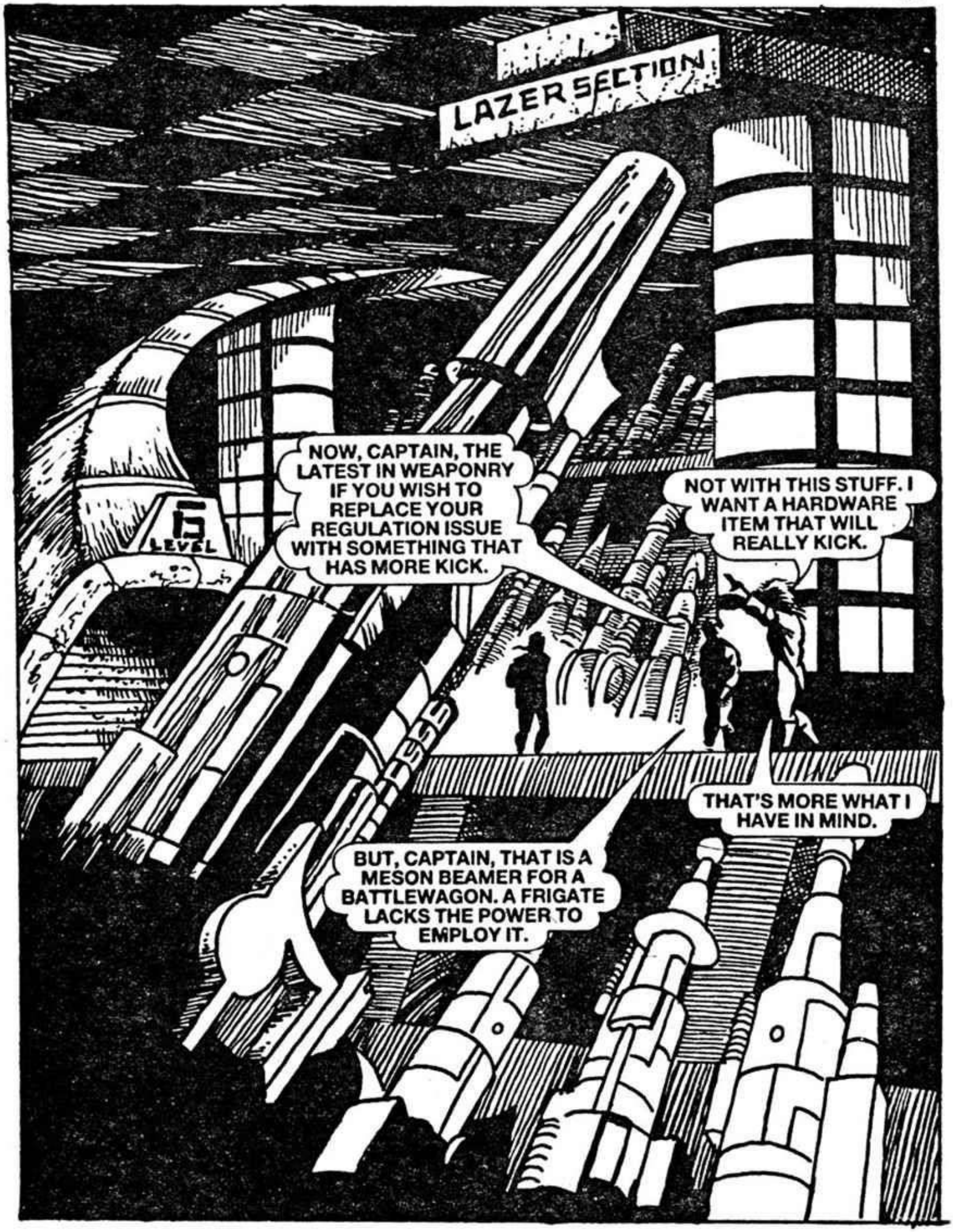
NO PROBLEM NOW OUR CREDIT'S GOOD, HENRY. LET US PAY A VISIT TO OUTFIT-AND-ORDNANCE.

BRAG DID SOME SHOPPING.

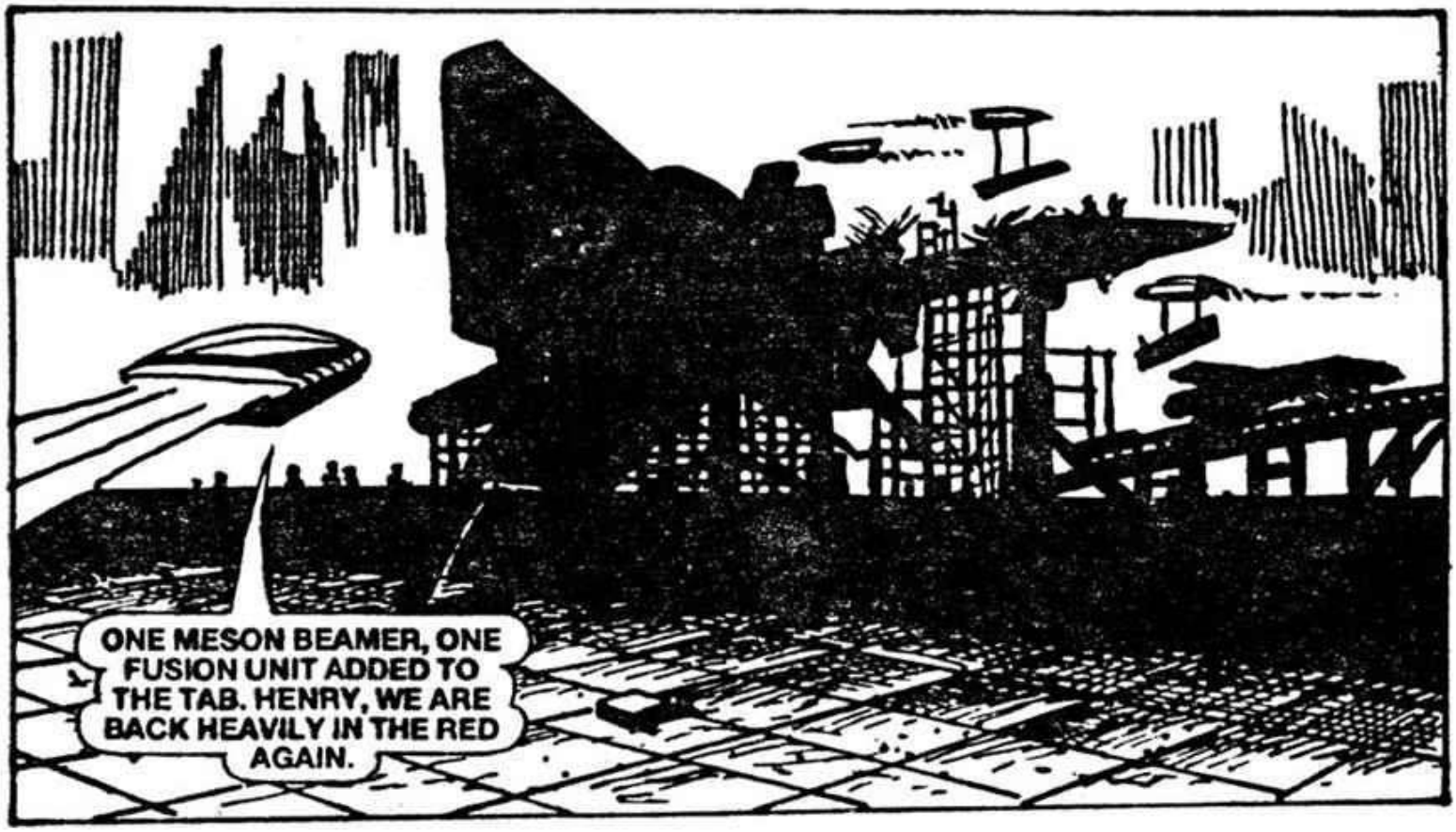
WEAPONS DEALERS W. MCLOUGHLIN A. CROOK

NOT ONE OF THE RECOMMENDED ESTABLISHMENTS!

NO! BUT THE BEST!


LAZER SECTION
6
LEVEL
NOW, CAPTAIN, THE LATEST IN WEAPONRY IF YOU WISH TO REPLACE YOUR REGULATION ISSUE WITH SOMETHING THAT HAS MORE KICK.
NOT WITH THIS STUFF. I WANT A HARDWARE ITEM THAT WILL REALLY KICK.
THAT'S MORE WHAT I HAVE IN MIND.
BUT, CAPTAIN, THAT IS A MESON BEAMER FOR A BATTLEWAGON. A FRIGATE LACKS THE POWER TO EMPLOY IT.

WE COULD FIT A SECONDARY ACCUMULATOR PACK FED BY THE SOLAR PANELS — THOUGH IT WOULD TAKE UP MUCH OF THE ACCOMMODATION AND STORAGE SPACE.
I'LL WRAP IT FOR YOU!
HENRY, NOW YOU ARE BEGINNING TO EARN THAT MILLION.
SALES

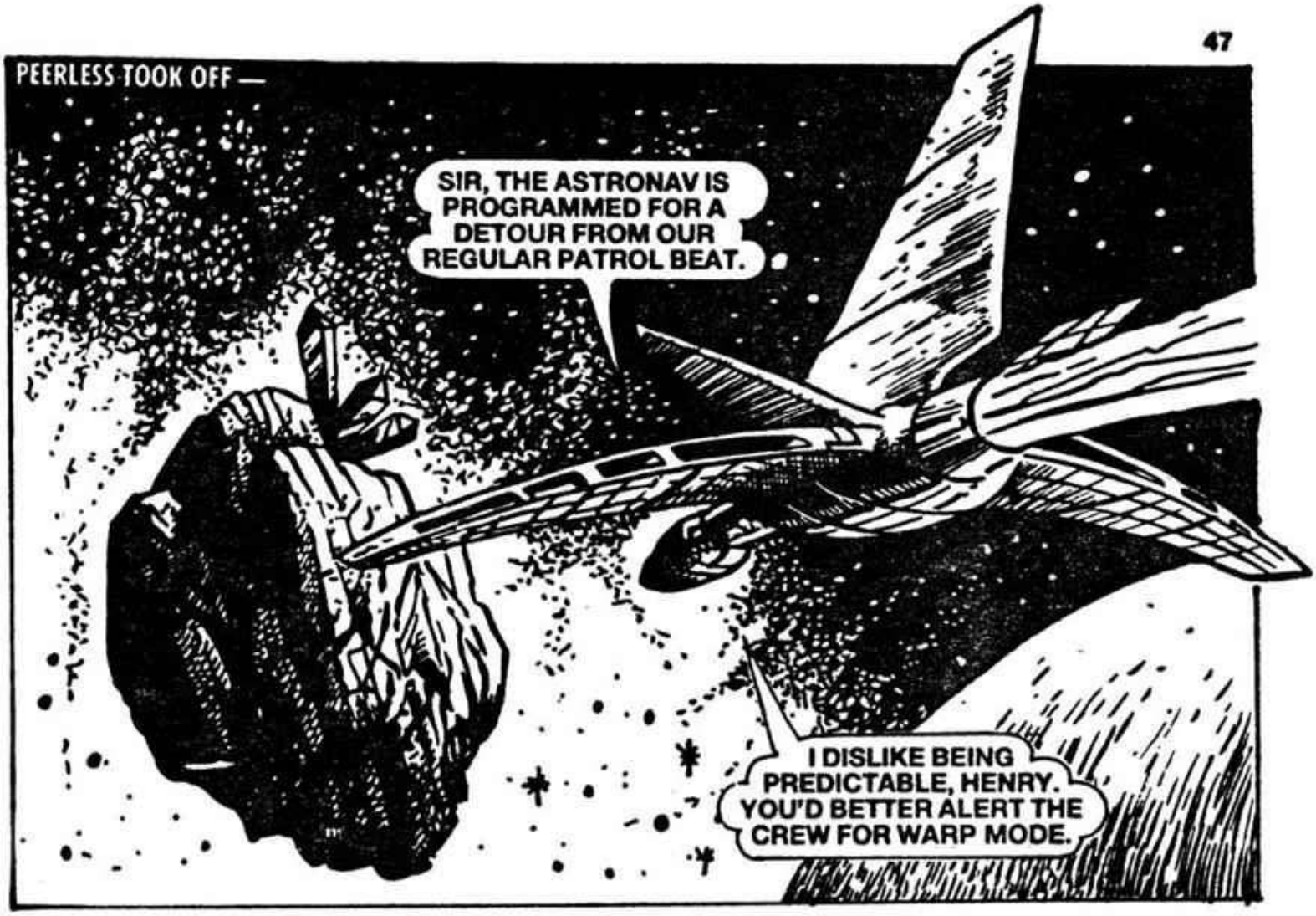

ONE MESON BEAMER, ONE FUSION UNIT ADDED TO THE TAB. HENRY, WE ARE BACK HEAVILY IN THE RED AGAIN.

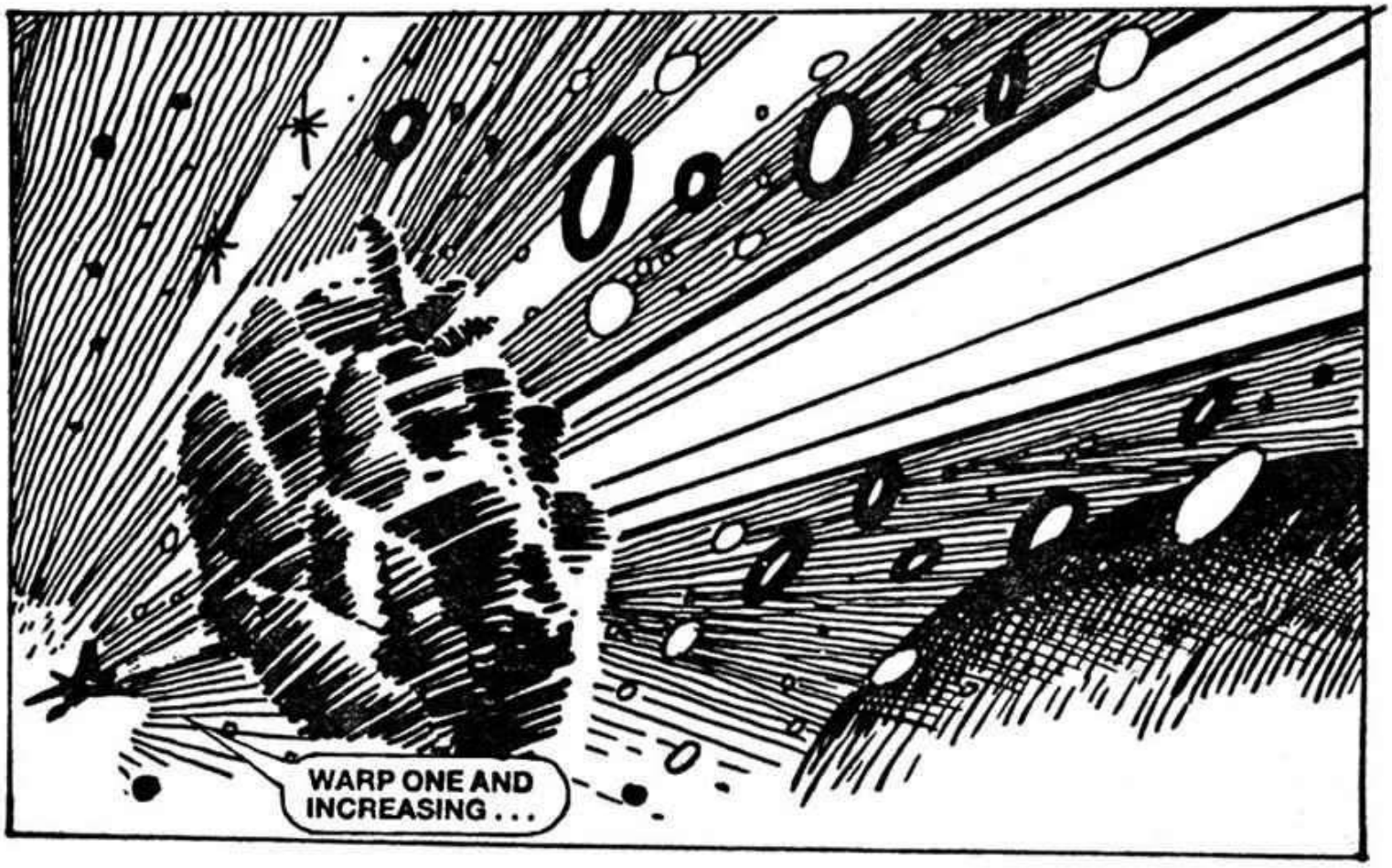
BEG TO REPORT SIX MORE VOLUNTEERS FOR CREW. ALL GOOD MEN.
BOS'N, YOU MAY SIGN ON THREE AND SEND AWAY THREE. SHOW PEOPLE WE'RE CHOOSEY!

PEERLESS BECAME BUSY OUTFITTING . . .
GENTLY NOW — LOWER AWAY.

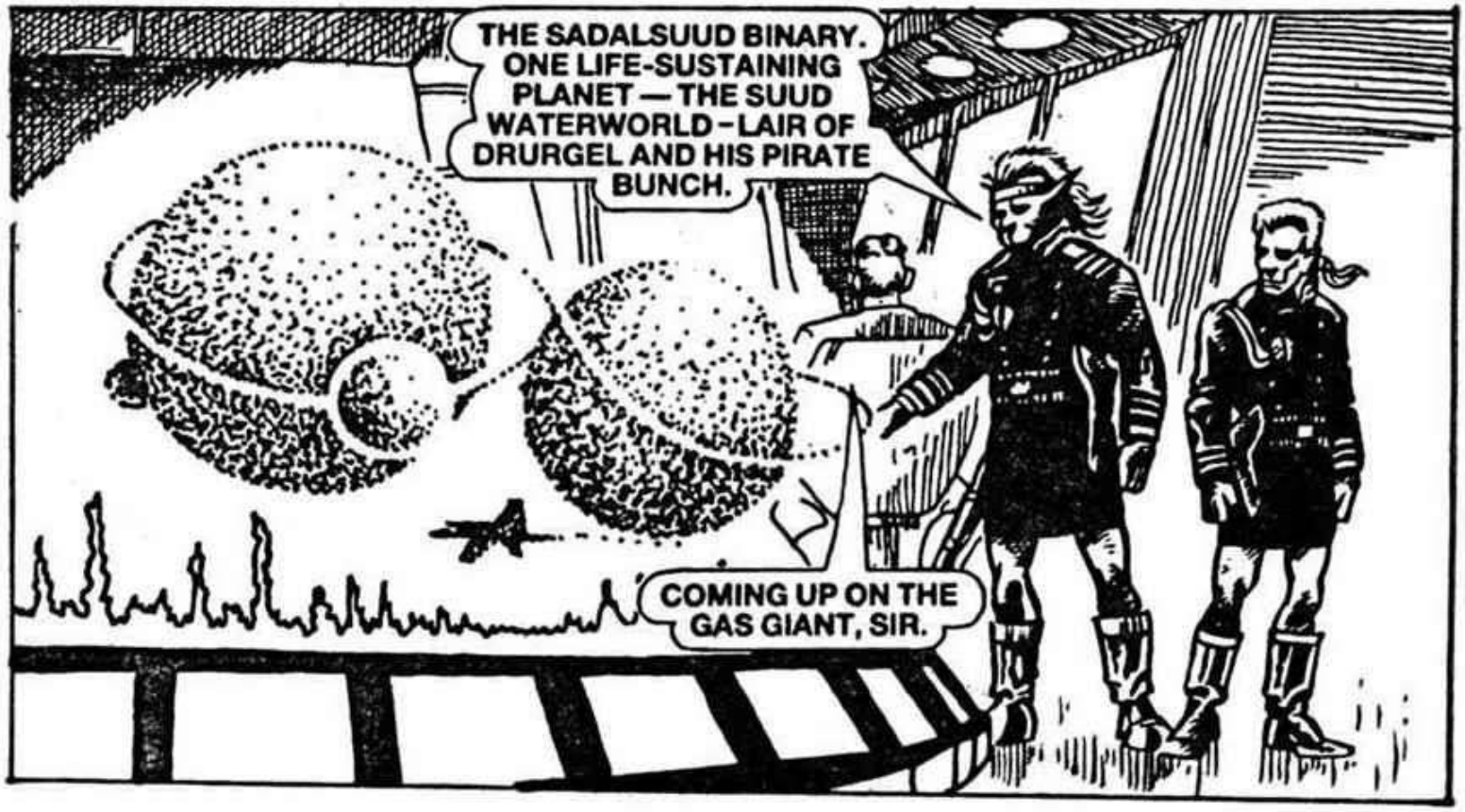
. . . AND TAKING ON STORES.
GALLEY STORE WITH THAT LOT, GROGZIL.
AYE, AYE — *GURG* — CHIEF.

ADMIRAL — SIR! PEERLESS IS READY TO TAKE UP PATROL STATION.
YOU HAVE PERMISSION TO SLIP, CAPTAIN BRAG.

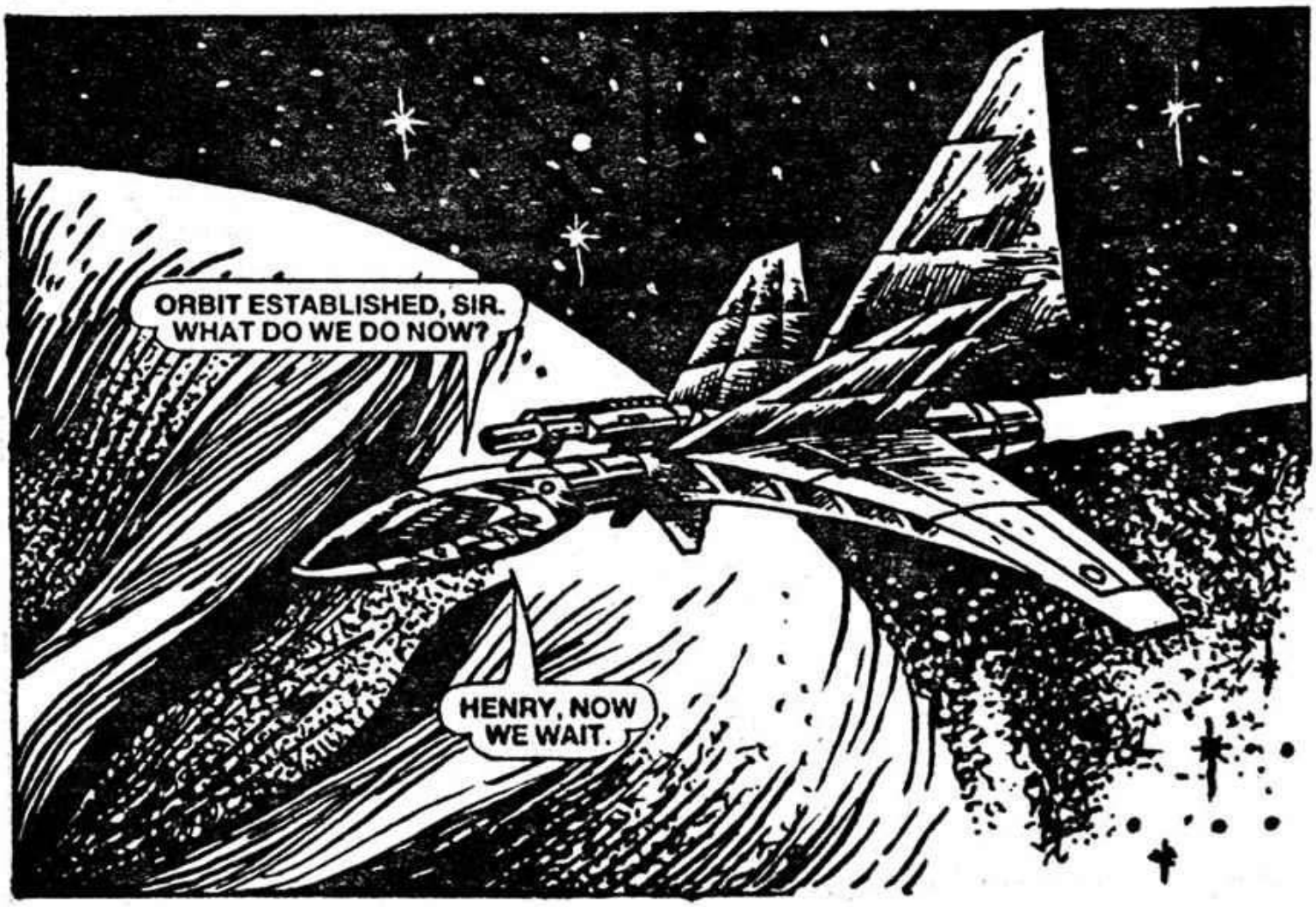

PEERLESS TOOK OFF —
SIR, THE ASTRONAV IS PROGRAMMED FOR A DETOUR FROM OUR REGULAR PATROL BEAT.
I DISLIKE BEING PREDICTABLE, HENRY. YOU'D BETTER ALERT THE CREW FOR WARP MODE.


WARP ONE AND INCREASING . . .

TEN STANDARD HOURS OUT —
DECELERATION INITIATED, SIR.
THANK YOU! HAVE HENRY PUT UP THE AREA HOLOGRAM CHART.


THE SADALSUUD BINARY. ONE LIFE-SUSTAINING PLANET — THE SUUD WATERWORLD - LAIR OF DRURGEL AND HIS PIRATE BUNCH.
COMING UP ON THE GAS GIANT, SIR.

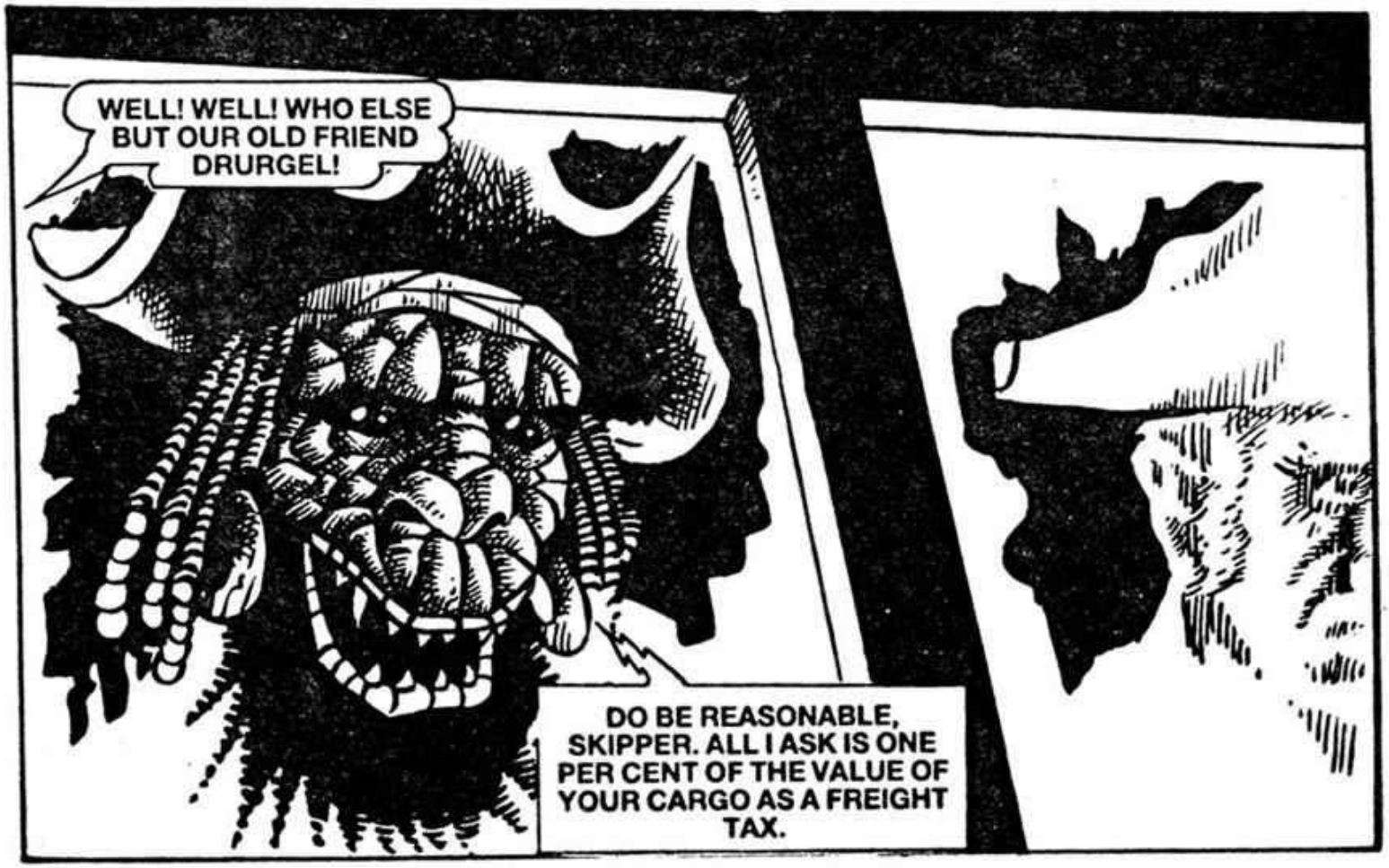
OUR OLD HIDEY-HOLE, EH! HENRY, SNUG US IN CLOSE TO THAT OVERSIZED BLOB OF METHANE AND AMMONIA.


ORBIT ESTABLISHED, SIR. WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
HENRY, NOW WE WAIT.

I ANTICIPATE A HAPPENING IN FOURTEEN MINUTES BY THIS TIMETABLE OF FLIGHTS SUPPLIED BY THE INGALACTIC TRAVEL BOARD TO ALL WHO REQUEST IT — INCLUDING CERTAIN PIRATICAL PERSONS.
SIR, YOU MEAN — AH, I BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND.

FOURTEEN STANDARD MINUTES PASSED.
SIR! WE ARE PICKING UP TWO CLOSE-RANGE TRANSMISSIONS.
I DO APPROVE OF PUNCTUALITY.

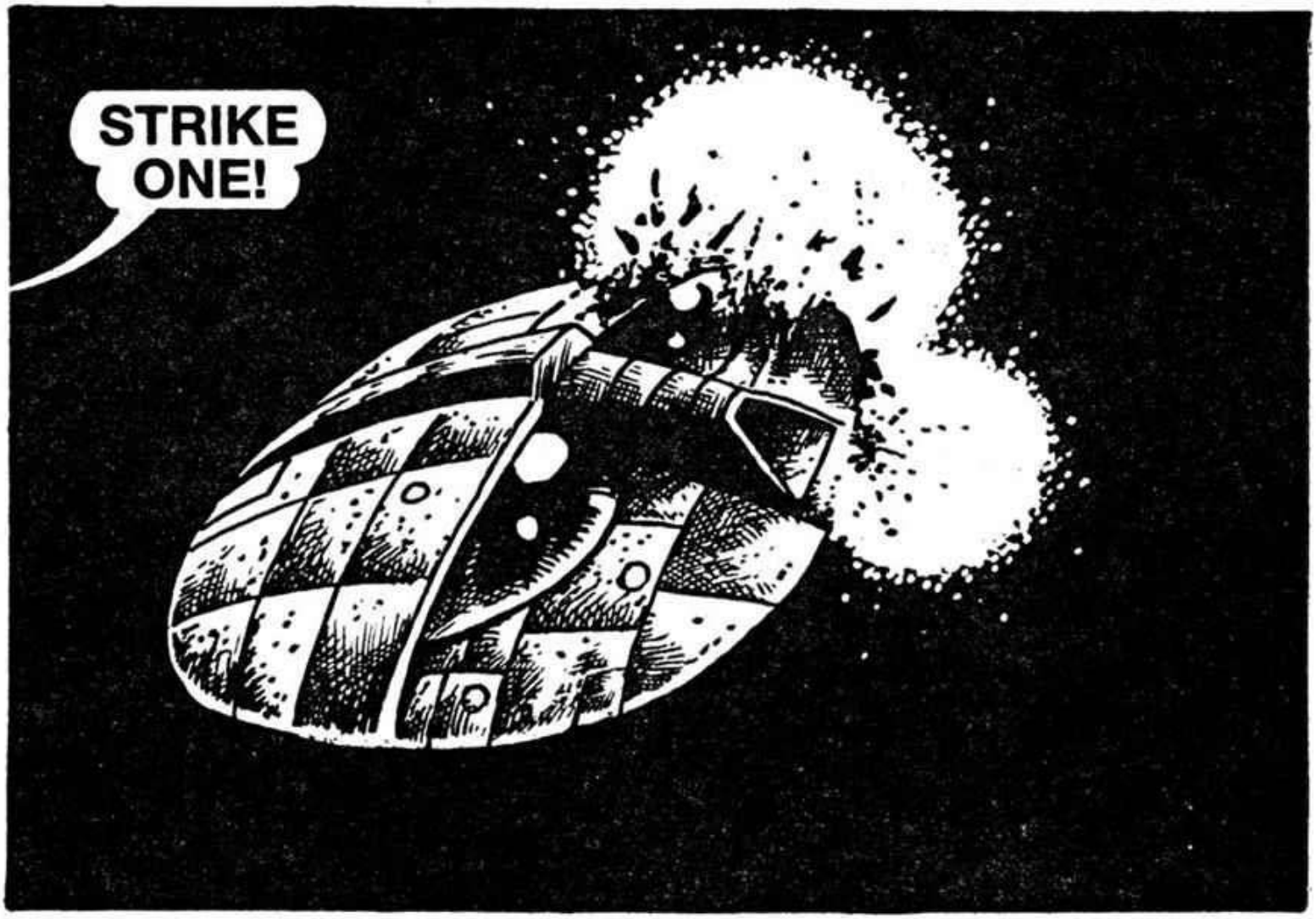
BRAG LISTENED TO THE CONVERSATION
CONFOUND YOU, MISTER, THIS IS PIRACY.
THAT WILL BE CAPTAIN NIMID OF THE FREIGHTLINER STARWAYS ACCORDING TO THE TIMETABLE.


WELL! WELL! WHO ELSE BUT OUR OLD FRIEND DRURGEL!
DO BE REASONABLE, SKIPPER. ALL I ASK IS ONE PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF YOUR CARGO AS A FREIGHT TAX.

ACTION STATIONS! SHIP SUBLIGHT ON ION DRIVE.
GURRUG!

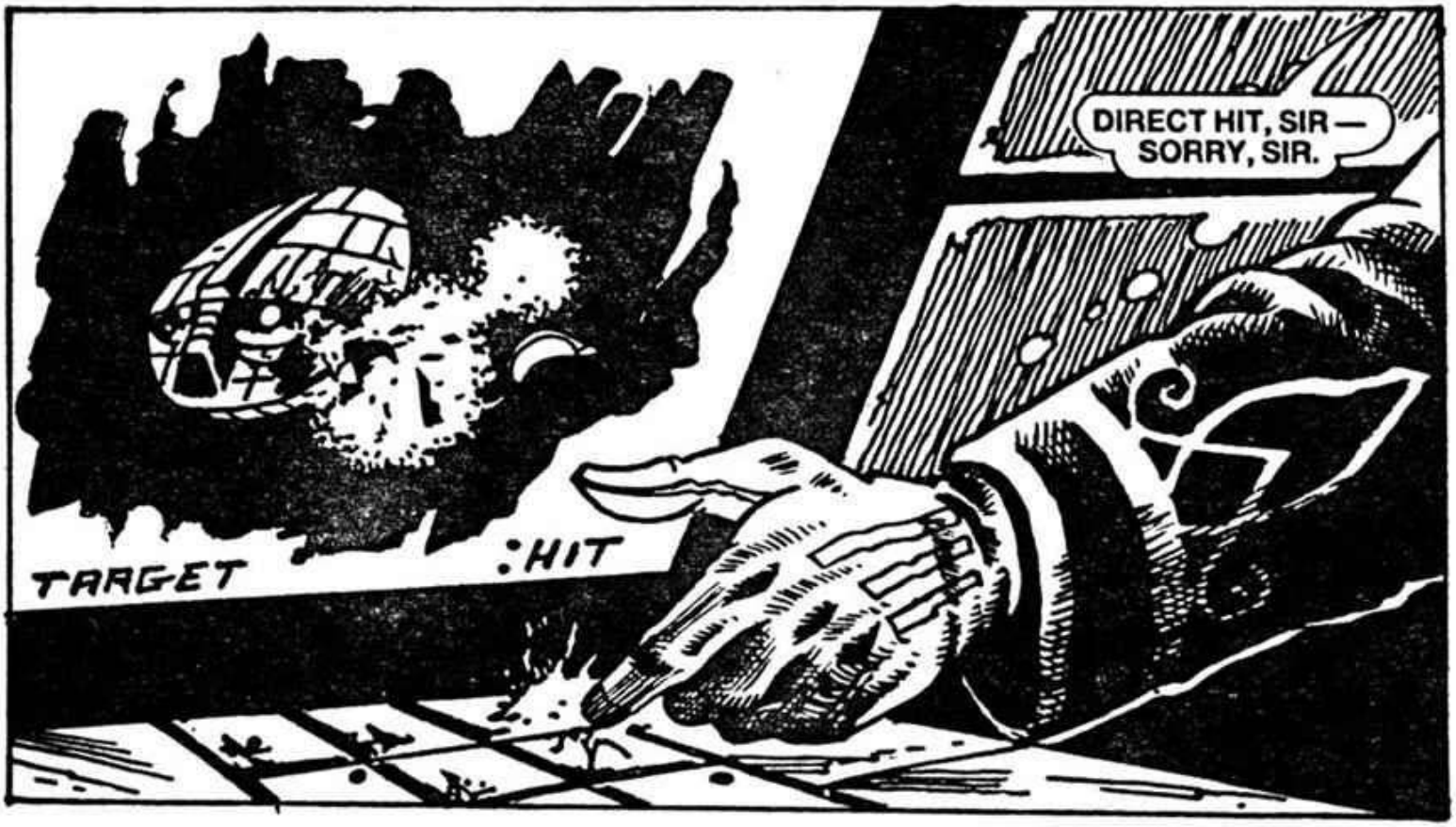
A FREIGHTLINER SURROUNDED BY THREE SUUD DISKERS. DRURGEL'S BROUGHT OUT HIS WHOLE FLEET.
ATTENTION! THIS IS THE NAVY. YOU PIRATES ARE UNDER ARREST.

HAW! HAW! SO I AM ARRESTED. NAVYMAN, GO AWAY BEFORE YOU ANNOY ME.
DRURGEL, DO NOT COMPEL ME TO USE FORCE.
SIR, TWO OF THE DISKERS ARE COMING FOR US.
NO DOUBT FONDLY IMAGINING THEY HAVE US OUTGUNNED.
SHOTS ACROSS OUR BOWS, EH! TRUK, YOU MAY RESPOND.
PEERLESS'S BATTLEWAGON BEAMER OPENED FIRE.


STRIKE ONE!

JUST A CRIPPLING STRIKE ON THE DISKER'S ION DRIVE, SIR.
VERY NICE, TRUK — DISABLED, BUT NOT DESTROYED.

BRAG USED EVASIVE ACTION AS THE COMPANION SHIP FIRED.
FIRE WHEN YOUR SIGHTS BEAR, TRUK.



PIRATE ADMIRAL DRURGEL WATCHED THE WIPE-OUT OF TWO THIRDS OF HIS FLEET.

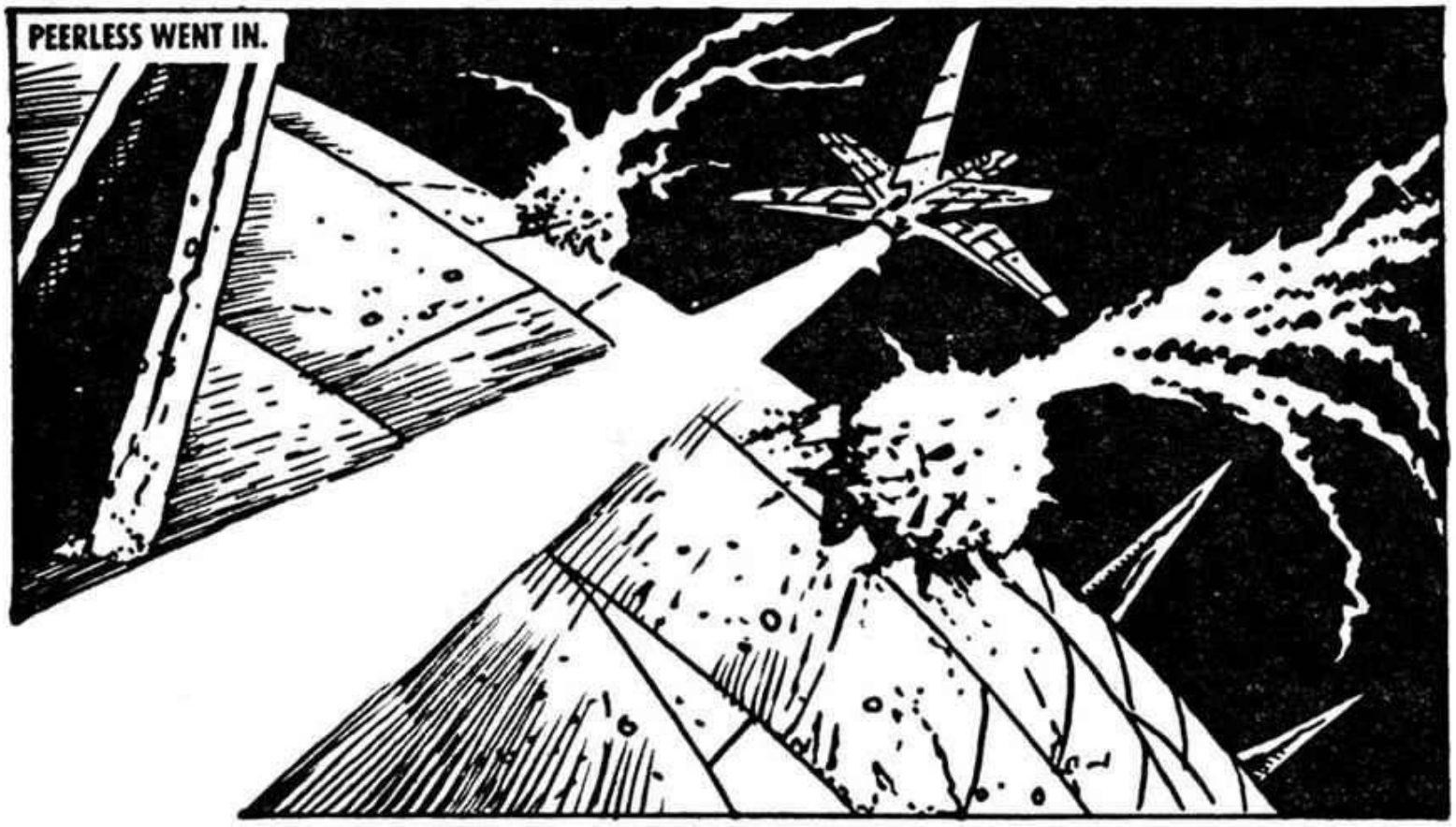
SIR, I MUST PROTEST AT THIS HAZARDING OF CIVILIAN LIVES.
DRURGEL WON'T DO IT, HENRY. HE'S TOO GOOD A BUSINESS PERSON TO WASTE VALUABLE CARGO.
SIR, REPORT REMAINING CRAFT DOING A RUNNER. I MIGHT GET HIM WITH A LONG RANGE SHOT.
NEGATIVE — WE SHALL COMMENCE PURSUIT — HENRY, PLOT A WARPLINE THAT WILL CUT THROUGH THE SUNS TO THE SUUD PLANET.
SIR, I PROTEST AGAIN. USE OF WARPDRIVE IN PLANETARY SYSTEMS IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN.
LOG YOUR PROTEST WITH THE OTHERS, HENRY — AND DO IT.
CREW TO BRACE FOR EXTRA STRESS.
GURRURGI

COURSE PASSES VERY CLOSE TO A SUN, SIR. SHIP WILL ENDURE SEVERE GRAVITATIONAL STRAIN.

DECELERATING FROM WARP, SIR. SUUD WATERWORLD AHEAD.
BRING IN ION DRIVE. ALL SECTIONS REPORT ON DAMAGE.
THAT IS NOT A MOON, SIR. IT MUST BE A SATELLITE.
GIVE ME A BLOW-UP OF IT.

A SPACE-DOCK, HENRY — A HARBOUR FOR DRURGEL'S FLEET.

CAPTAIN TO CREW! WE ARE GOING TO HIT THAT DOCK BEFORE THE SUUDS WAKE UP TO US BEING HERE. SO HOLD TIGHT.


PEERLESS WENT IN.

SIR — A CRAFT!
DRURGEL FINALLY REACHING HOME. BETTER COMMENCE AN EVASION PATTERN.
SEE WHAT I MEAN ABOUT DRURGEL BEING QUICK ON THE TRIGGER.

HE'S HEADING FOR DOCK, SIR. I CAN STILL VAPE HIM.
BOS'N, YOU REALLY SHOULD CURB THESE DESTRUCTIVE IMPULSES.
THE DOCK DEFENCES HAVE WOKEN UP, TIME FOR US TO BACK OFF.
DRURGEL BROUGHT HOME HIS REMAINING SHIP.

TRANSMISSION INCOMING, SIR.
THE CALLER WAS DRURGEL.
NAVYMAN, WE APPEAR TO HAVE A STAND-OFF SITUATION. WE CAN LAST YOU OUT, BUT IT WILL INTERFERE WITH BUSINESS — SO HOW MUCH?
MY TERMS ARE QUITE MODEST. YOUR SHIP AND ONE PERCENT OF YOUR TAKE ON THE PAST FOUR HAULS.

THAT IS ROBBERY — SHEER ROBBERY.

YES . . . BUT ROBBERY WITHOUT VIOLENCE! BETTER MAKE UP YOUR MIND QUICKLY, OR I'LL BECOME VIOLENT.

PEERLESS OPENED LONG-RANGE FIRE.
ALL RIGHT. I AGREE TO YOUR TERMS.
WHICH HAVE JUST GONE UP. LOAD TWO PERCENT OF YOUR TAKE ON THAT SHIP AND SEND IT ON AUTO FOR MY PRIZE CREW TO TAKE OVER.
SIR, DO YOU MEAN WE LEAVE AND LET THAT SCOUNDREL GET ON WITH HIS PIRACY.
HENRY, THE NAVY DOES NOT INTERFERE WITH FREE ENTERPRISE — UNLESS IT BECOMES TOO ANNOYING, OF COURSE.

PEERLESS MADE A TRIUMPHANT RETURN TO BASE — ACCOMPANIED BY A CAPTURED SHIP AND TOWING ONE DAMAGED PRIZE.
PREPARE FOR LANDING. ALL CREW EXCEPT DUTY WATCH WILL BE ALLOWED SHORE LEAVE.
UNLIMITED CREDIT NOW, HENRY. YOUR SHARE WILL BE ENOUGH TO PAY ME BACK AND BUY YOU A POST ON A BATTLEWAGON.
INDEED, SIR. HOWEVER, I FEEL THE EXPERIENCE I GAIN ON PEERLESS WOULD STAND ME IN GOOD STEAD AT SOME TIME IN THE FUTURE . . . I SHALL REMAIN.
HENRY HANDED BRAG A DISK —
THAT IS A RECORD OF MY PROTESTS. PLEASE STORE IT IN THE SHIP'S DATA-BANK, AND I SHALL CONTINUE TO LOG ANY FURTHER BREACHES OF NAVY LAW.
BUT OF COURSE, HENRY. I WOULDN'T HAVE IT ANY OTHER WAY.

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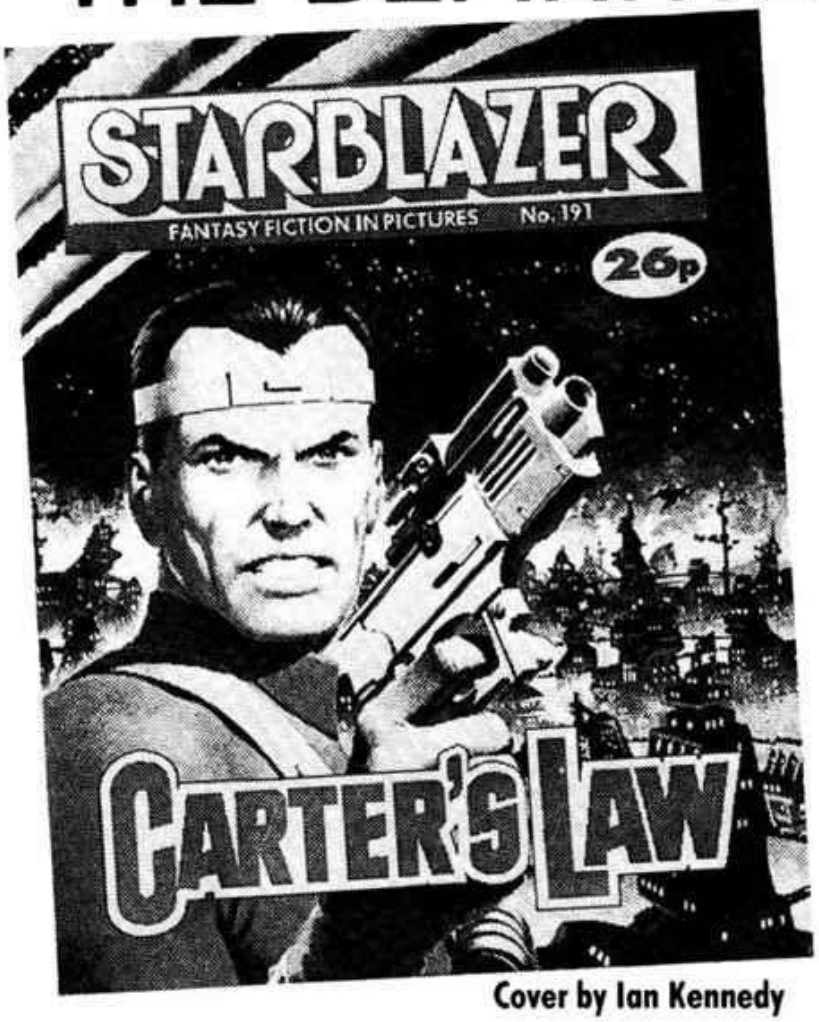
STARBLAZER...

THE DEFINITIVE HISTORY



Cover by Ian Kennedy

Demonsword, the first chronicle in a five part series saw the light of day in September, 1987. This tale relates the saga of the ruling family of Anglerre and was to continue into 1990. From the pen of Mike Chinn and illustrated by the surreal Alcatena, this represents story and illustration of the highest order.

Just to show his versatility, Mike Chinn also wrote The Robot Kid, the first in a series of film spoofs. Drawn by Garijo, whose eye for the ridiculous added a wonderful touch of adult humour to an already funny story.

No.	TITLE	AUTHOR	ARTIST
184	THE RETURN OF GROK AND ZERO	A. C. HEMUS	GARIJO
185	THE WARLORD OF LAAMA	R. ASPDEN	VILA
186	STARHAWK	A. C. HEMUS	ORTIZ
187	MIND WARRIOR	ALAN ROGERS	VILA
188	THE INFERNAL TRIANGLE	CASANOVAS JNR	CASANOVAS JNR
189	THE KILLING ZONE	R. H. BONSALL	SEGURA
190	THE POWER OF THE WARLORDS	A. C. HEMUS	ALCATENA
191	CARTER'S LAW	M. KNOWLES	CASANOVAS JNR
192	FACE OF EVIL	D. H. TAYLOR	T. O'DONNELL
193	LEGEND OF THE GOLDEN AXE	W. CORDEROY	ORTIZ
194	CABEL AND THE SHE WARRIOR	R. ALEXANDER	GARIJO
195	COMPUTER COMMANDOS	B. GEORGIOU	VILA
196	SKARR, WARRIOR OF THE NORLANDS	W. CORDEROY	ALCATENA
197	THE LAW LORD	A. C. HEMUS	SEGURA
198	TIME WARRIORS	W. CORDEROY	CASANOVAS JNR
199	NETHER WORLD	A. C. HEMUS	ALCATENA
200	DEMON SWORD	M. CHINN	ALCATENA
201	RETURN OF STARHAWK	D. H. TAYLOR	ORTIZ
202	LORD OF THE FAR PLANET	A. C. HEMUS	GARIJO
203	WIPE OUT	A. C. HEMUS	ORTIZ
204	THE ROBOT KID	M. CHINN	GARIJO
205	THE HEXALYN LOCATION	P. ALEXANDER	SEGURA
206	BATTLEWAGON	A. C. HEMUS	VILA
207	CITIZEN KAYN	W. CORDEROY	ALCATENA

OUTGUARD

Once the Space Navy had been privatised Defence contracts went out to tender, or in some cases, sponsorship. Most of the sleek, impressive battlecraft were sponsored by large intergalactic companies, but some of the less glamorous craft, like the Space sloop Peerless, a rusting hulk, found no sponsors. These craft were allocated a meagre budget . . . and it was to Peerless that newly-commissioned, genetically-engineered Lieutenant Henry Utter-Vlos was posted. The only trouble was the captain had to pay for him, and Lieutenant Henry Utter-Vlos cost the entire year's budget.